

Hafa Adai!

\$5K bail for man who allegedly robbed JJ Market for cigarettes. **PAGE 3**

EPA awards over \$2.4M grant to CNMI's BECQ. **PAGE 7**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 224

www.saipantribune.com

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2020

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NMI seen to get 1st batch of COVID-19 vaccine in late Nov.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI is set to receive two sets of the vaccine developed by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE, which will protect most people from COVID-19.

See VACCINE on Page 4

EVEN IN MIDST OF COVID-19 Pot license applications being reviewed, approved

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Cannabis Commission is right now reviewing a total of 12 applications

for commercial licenses and nine licenses for homegrown marijuana have already been approved and the commission expects to entertain more applications.

See POT on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Nov. 10, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	5,113	360	5,473
Recovered	3,402	252	3,654
Active	1,369	360	1,729
Deaths	90	1	91
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	73,161		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	100	0	100
Traced via Travel Screening	74	0	74
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	22,633*		
Days since last community transmission	85		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



CUP SIGN

The fence of the Army and Air Force Exchange Store in Puerto Rico is decorated with different-colored plastic cups that spell out "Happy Veterans Day 11.11.20" to mark today's occasion, which is Veterans Day.

NEIL FAMA

28K PUA claims remain unadjudicated

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

As of yesterday, DOL has already received a total of 36,000 claims, said CNMI

The CNMI Department of Labor has officially adjudicated roughly 8,000 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claims but about 28,000 remain unadjudicated.

RELATED NEWS

► DOL receives over \$50M for PUA and FPUC. **PAGE 2**

DOL director Eugene Tebuteb in a news briefing yesterday.

Bad news, though, for the 28,000 claims that remain unadjudicated.

See PUA on Page 4



Browne



Deleon Guerrero

CCC chair skeptical about investor's \$5.59M deposit as IPI's security fund

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward Deleon Guerrero is skeptical about an investor that has put up \$5.59 million as

a security deposit on behalf of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC when the latter's mother company in Hong Kong is not willing to do that.

"Why would a third party put its own resources when the parent

company [of IPI] is not willing to do the same?" Deleon Guerrero asked IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne during the CCC board's monthly meeting.

He also asked if Browne has a copy of the agreement between IPI

and the investor, Pacific International Property Management LLC, which put up the \$5.59 million in an investment portfolio for the purpose of securing a stay and paying on the court's judgment in connection with

See INVESTOR on Page 4

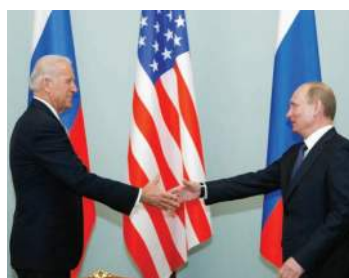
INSIDE



BUSINESS

This month, Kensington Hotel has lined up treats for its guests who say the magic words.

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WORLD

Russian President Vladimir Putin won't congratulate President-elect Joe Biden just yet.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

These days and out of the public eye, Britney Spears wants to be freed from her father.

PAGE 15



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

DOL receives over \$50M for PUA and FPUC

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor has received over \$50 million in grant money from the U.S. Department of Labor to fund the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance programs for distribution in

the CNMI.

According to CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, the department received \$8 million for its FPUC program last week and approximately \$42 million for PUA.

However, the additional \$8 million is not intended to reinstate the FPUC program, but to pay off those who have yet to receive their FPUC benefits before the program expired back in July.

"The FPUC program ended in July, but we are still processing for those claimants who had portal issues before the July 31 deadline. The majority are weekly claims," she said.

Benavente said majority of people who are waiting for their FPUC benefits are those who applied for weekly claims. Some, however, have yet to receive their lump sum, their first payment, which includes both weekly benefits and FPUC benefits.

Benavente said DOL also received an additional \$42.5 million for the PUA program. The additional monies should fund all applicants up until the program's expiration on Dec. 31, 2020. Benavente said that DOL will also be focusing on contacting individuals who have not been helped since the program was opened.

Also, starting Dec. 1, DOL will be reopened to the public for in-person appointments.

Sources told *Saipan Tribune* that after DOL mailed their PUA check to them, they were dismayed when their checks allegedly "bounced," meaning there were no funds available to cash the check. Benavente said that what happened, though, is that PUA payments were kept on hold until the additional funding from USDOL came through.

"There were no bounced checks at all. We did hold PUA payments until we received additional funding last week—\$42.5 million for PUA and \$8 million for FPUC,"

she said.

Benavente assured that they are processing those payments as fast as possible, adding that, with the additional funds, they want to be sure there are enough funds for PUA and FPUC. This comes after seeing a spike of claims submitted for October.

According to Benavente, they have seen fewer claims in September. "It seems like we had a low number of weekly claims submitted, about 5,000 for the entire month, an average of about 1,200 a week. But in October, I noticed that the number of claims jumped to 18,000 claims, which averages to about 4,500 claims in one week," said Benavente.

Though there has been a larger number of claims in October, she stated that there has not been an increase in distribution. "We distributed \$24 million to PUA accounts, and for the month of October, it dropped a little to \$20 million for the entire month," said Benavente.

She said that the community has to realize that the CNMI DOL has to report every number to the U.S. DOL. "We have to report to U.S. DOL the numbers, [of] how many people are applying each week, how much are we spending each week. It's not just a matter of clicking yes to approve and then it goes to the PUA applicant. We have to make sure that that approval has been vetted carefully for fraudulent claims or accurate computation of earnings and all of that," said Benavente.

As of September, the CNMI DOL has paid over \$71 million in PUA and FPUC benefits. In October, the department distributed over \$24 million in PUA benefits. The department has also processed over 18,000 PUA applications as of October.

Benavente said those who qualify for PUA can still submit applications and weekly claims and may do so until the end of December. *(With Justine Nauta)*

Man files suit against transportation company after container falls on him

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A man has filed a suit against a transportation company after two containers the company was transporting collided with his vehicle.

Josue Genesis Cruz filed his suit against Dewitt Transportation Services Inc. or DTS for injuries sustained in a traffic incident.

The suit was initially filed electronically at the CNMI Superior Court but was moved

to the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week.

The plaintiff is suing the company and its employee, Antolin Pangelinan, for alleged negligence and is seeking damages worth \$75,000.

Cruz claims that Pangelinan was operating a large truck owned by DTS last June 18, 2019, when two large and heavy containers fell off the truck and hit the vehicle carrying Cruz as a passenger, causing damage to the car and

See MAN on Page 4

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\$5K bail for man who allegedly robbed JJ Market for cigarettes

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court imposed last week a \$5,000 cash bail on a man who was arrested for allegedly robbing JJ Market to steal a carton of cigarettes, among other things.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed the \$5,000 cash bail on Edward Gene W. Richards, a 23-year-old man who was allegedly armed with a machete and a knife when he robbed JJ Market in Koblerville.

Richards allegedly committed the robbery on Oct. 31 at around 7pm and the items stolen were a carton of Marlboro cigarettes worth \$77 and about \$800 cash.

Richards was ordered to return to court on Nov. 12 at 9am for his preliminary hearing and on Nov. 17 at 9am for his arraignment.

The Office of the Public Defender was appointed to represent Richards while assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

According to court documents, police identified Richards as the perpetrator after reviewing the security camera footage of the store.

The store cashier informed police that she knew Richards because he was a frequent customer of the store.

Police officers later went to Richards' house in Koblerville to meet with his family about the robbery. After briefing the family about what had happened at JJ Market, police asked the family to call the police

when he returns home.

The following day, Nov. 1, Richards' sister called the police and said that he had returned home and wanted to surrender.

While in the custody of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Richards admitted that he

robbed JJ Market and he also admitted to arming himself with a machete and a knife. Richards also stated that he was still wearing the same clothes he used during the robbery.

Shirley's Coffee Shop signs on as an NMC ProaPerks partner



NMC

Shirley's Coffee Shop is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. (Photo taken in 2019)

Shirley's Coffee Shop is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can avail for 10% off purchases and one free refillable iced tea or coffee on Mondays at Shirley's Garapan and Susupe branches.

Other ProaPerks partners include 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, All Star Sporting Goods, Athlete's Foot, Boardline, Bubba Gump, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days (Garapan), Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Garapan Restaurant,

Great Harvest, Kiki's, Latte Built Gym, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, NMC Bookstore, Pena House Boutique, Saipan Computer Services, Salty's, Surf Club, Tribe Marianas, Triple J Motors, and The Pacific Supply.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out ProaPerks to students, employees, the graduating class of 2020, and alumni. The first batch of cards will be sent out in the coming weeks. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.php.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)

CCC says central govt assures funding to continue operations

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With the Commonwealth Casino Commission still waiting for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to pay the \$3.15 million regulatory fee, the central government has given CCC certain assurances that it will be given funding so it could continue operating.

Acting CCC executive director Andrew Yeom assured yesterday that the nonpayment of the regulatory fee will not impede its ability to perform its fiduciary duty of regulating and overseeing the Saipan casino industry.

"Although nothing has been set in stone at the moment, the commission will continue

See CCC on Page 4

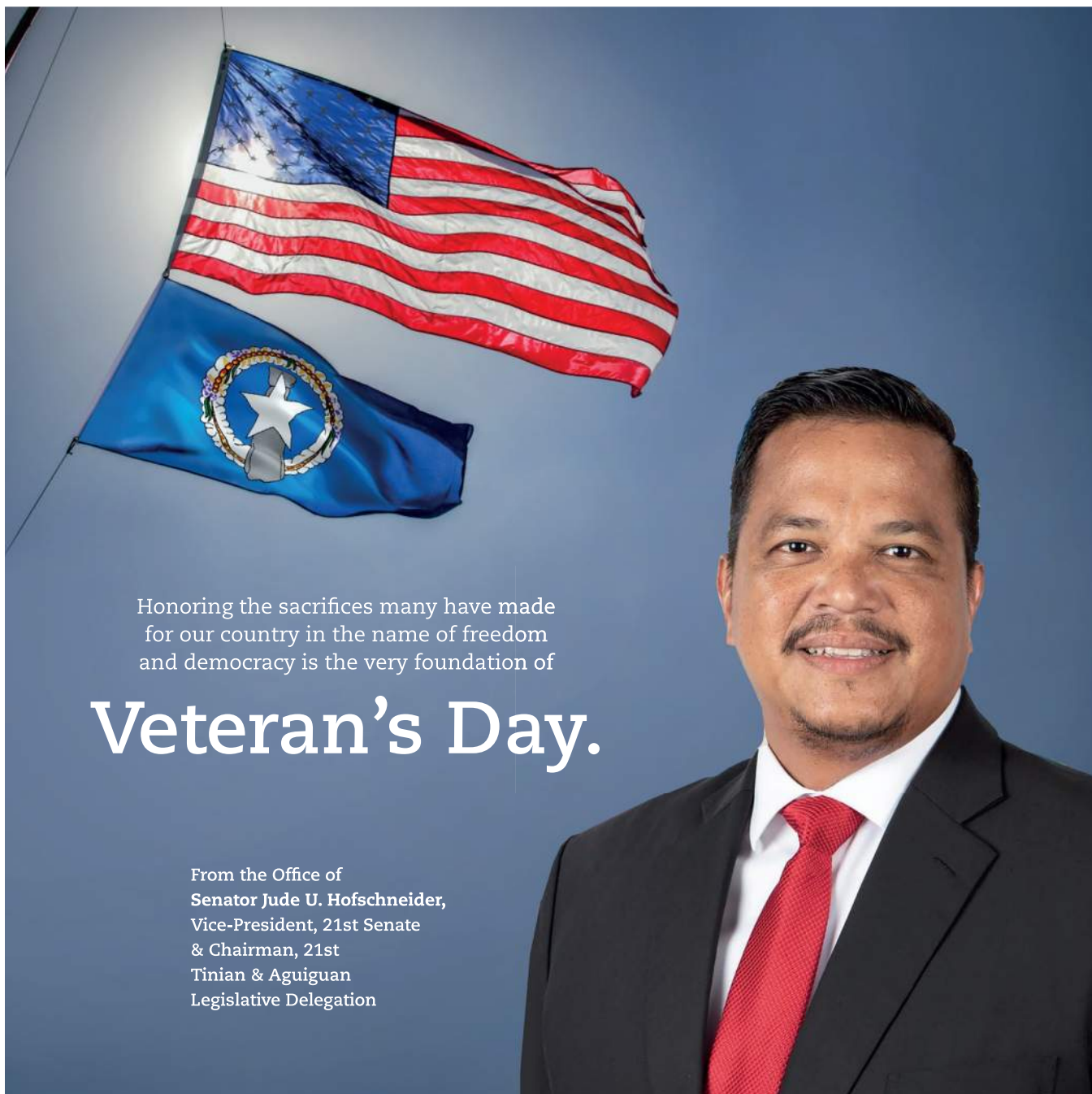
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MCS honors veterans

Mount Carmel School celebrates and honors military veterans today, Nov. 11, 2020.

Although the school dedicates the month of May to honoring veterans and those currently serving,

MCS still joins the rest of the nation today to extend its appreciation to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting the freedom of the people of the United States of America.

Prior to the pandemic, MCS also practiced several ways to honor the service of those in the military, not just in May and not only during Veterans Day.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

VACCINE

From Page 1

Speaking at the radio news briefing yesterday, Esther Muña, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer, stated that the initial round of vaccines will amount to a total of 2,000 doses and is expected to arrive in the CNMI around Nov. 23. The second batch, which will be about 12,000 to 15,000 doses, will be arriving around Dec. 14.

Muña assured that the vaccines won't cost a thing, except for an administrative fee that will be billed to insurance companies. "At the end of the day, the intent is not to charge anyone and no one should be paying for it," said Muña.

She stated that the administration fee is for the cost of the health care workers who will be performing and vaccinating the public. When someone has insurance, CHCC will bill the insurance company, Muña said. For those who are not insured, that is something that "we will work with the government to ensure that somebody pays for the cost, which is the administration fee."

Though nothing is official yet, Muña stated that the first 2,000 doses of the vaccine will be for health care workers and front-liners.

Muña made it clear that the distribution of the vaccine is still being talked about with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to Pfizer, the vaccine's effectivity is at 90%.

Muña said the key is to "ensure

that safety and efficacy" are there. Since the first round of vaccines will be primarily for health care workers and front-liners, she said the vaccine for the population as a whole will be coming in early next year.

In previous interviews, Muña had stated that the first round of vaccines after the front-liners and health care workers will be the high-risk population, and then on to the rest of the population.

The larger number of vaccines for the general population is projected to arrive in January, and then a second batch will be around February.

"As soon as we do the mass vaccination, we will be able to get more allocations," said Muña. Once the CNMI has received the vaccinations from the manufacture, CHCC has to administer it within 10 days.

INVESTOR

From Page 1

a contractor's lawsuit against IPI.

Deleon Guerrero is baffled whether the \$5.59 million is an investment or a loan and if this deal would allow IPI to open up a bank account.

In response, Browne said they operate in an investment community where some believe in them and some don't and that the agreement between IPI and PIPM is a matter of public record. He said that IPI lawyer Michael Dotts will present to CCC whatever documents they submitted in court relating to the agreement between IPI and PIPM.

Browne did say that the money is a loan or a pledge. "We're not using it for anything. It's just sitting in an account," he said.

Browne said the whole theory behind this deposit from PIPM is that IPI needs a bank account. "It's not our money. The money pledged on our behalf would help our operation now. Is there just going to be \$50 million that jumps into the account? I would highly doubt that," he said.

However, he said, that pledge would prepare them for funds to be delivered so they don't have to go to other people to pledge money on their behalf.

PIPM is not owned by IPI. Right now, there is no other available information about the company's background.

With PIPM's deposit as a security fund, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona last week denied IPI's former contractor Pacific Rim Land Development LLC's request to auction IPI's assets to satisfy the court's \$5.52 million judgment.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment.

Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed-upon construction work at the casino on Sept. 30, 2018.

IPI then brought counterclaims against Pacific Rim for promissory fraud, fraud in the inducement as to the promissory note, violation of Consumer Protection Act, and breach

of contract.

IPI then filed an amended lawsuit against Pacific Rim for promissory fraud, fraud in the inducement as to the promissory note, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment.

IPI counsel George Hasselback alleged, among other things, that due to the delays associated with the unworkmanlike performance of Pacific Rim, IPI lost approximately \$89,342,352 in operations revenue at the casino.

Last April 27, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65 million against IPI for breach of promissory note. She later amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees. The clerk then entered an amended judgment in the amount of \$6.9 million plus post-judgment interest.

Last July 15, Manglona issued an order granting Pacific Rim's motion to release to Pacific Rim IPI's \$1,383,869 that was seized through writs of execution.

Pacific Rim counsel Colin Thompson said the judgment remains unsatisfied in the amount of \$5,525,463.

other potential applicants to assist them with the application process.

She said there is an application fee and a license fee, which amount varies depending on the class.

Sablan said the application fee is non-refundable.

"But you don't pay the licensing fee until you're approved for the license. So that is not until it's been completely reviewed by the commission," she said.

From the 12 applications, Sablan said they've already collected over \$10,000 in revenue since they had the official launching of applications for homegrown and commercial licenses last Aug. 4. She said they started receiving applications beginning September.

"What I've been doing is I assist anyone who's interested in meet-

PUA

From Page 1

pointed out that, with the program expiring by the end of December, the department may not be able to adjudicate all the remaining claims.

"I believe we're making headway in terms of having more time to adjudicate claims. We have a total of 36,000 claims and we have to vet all of them and we have had some time to do that so we're making headway. So far, roughly 8,000 have been adjudicated. I don't believe we're going to adjudicate all of them, but I believe we will get close," he said.

Since opening the PUA program back in June, to date, Tebuteb said over \$72 million in PUA funds have been obligated and over \$86 million in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation have

been obligated.

"I say obligated because these funds, for the most, have been dispersed to eligible claimants but not all of them have been dispersed," Tebuteb said.

In terms of assistance with claims, PUA call center supervisor Agatha Camacho is asking the community to bear with DOL as they try to answer every call that comes in on a daily basis.

"We get a lot of incoming calls. As much as possible, we try to assist all the claimants daily. We ask the community for patience and to bear with Labor. We are doing our best to give everyone their payments," she said.

Camacho said on average DOL receives around 300 to 400 calls a day. Currently, DOL has 15 PUA coordinators that assist with incoming calls.

CCC

From Page 3

regulating Saipan's casino industry, all while implementing preventive measures and plans to mitigate risks and exploring possible opportunities to expand and improve the casino gaming industry on Saipan for the long-term," he said in a statement.

Last August, Yeom said the CCC can only survive for a few months if IPI fails to pay the \$3.15 million regulatory fee last Oct. 1.

Yeom said the CCC will not entertain IPI's request to put off paying the regulatory fee to 30 days before the reopening of its casino, that the \$3.15 million fee is set by law.

As for the \$15,502,570 casino license fee that IPI also failed to pay by the Aug. 12 deadline, Yeom said that CCC is in no position to entertain bargains or deals with IPI as the amount is also set by law.

Last Aug. 18, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres notified IPI of the government's intent to suspend or revoke IPI's exclusive casino license.

MAN

From Page 2

bodily injury to Cruz.

Allegedly, due to the collision, Cruz's broke his arm. Additionally, as a result of the injuries he sustained from the incident, Cruz is no longer able to fully extend his arm. He said it was determined that treatment could not be provided at the Commonwealth Health Center or in Guam so arrangements were made to refer Cruz to Sharp Clinic in San Diego, California.

Cruz said he was unable to be seen by the clinic doctor until July 19, 2019, or a month after the accident. He said he experienced extreme pain during the month, and even after the surgery was performed, he experienced pain for six months before the

pain subsided.

Cruz stated in his complaint that the injuries brought about a condition that causes pain and discomfort and will continue for the rest of his life, resulting in pain and discomfort and the loss of potential future earnings.

DTS attorney Sean Frink transferred the lawsuit from the Superior Court to the jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court for the NMI on the grounds of diversity jurisdiction.

Frink said Cruz claims that he is a resident of the CNMI but is actually a resident of Guam.

Frink explained that because Cruz's lawsuit seeks more than \$75,000 in damages and because Cruz and the defendants are citizens of different states and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, the District Court for the NMI has diversity jurisdiction.

POT

From Page 1

plications, according to managing director Monique Sablan.

In her presentation during the Rotary Club of Saipan's meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan's ballroom yesterday, Sablan highlighted the potential of the marijuana industry even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a later interview, Sablan said it's interesting to see that there are still a lot of people who are applying for licenses during this time with COVID-19.

"Imagine that we're in the pandemic, and we have an economic issue going on, where both the public and private sectors have been suffering. But being able to see local entre-

preneurs and off-island investors still want to invest in an industry here in the Commonwealth is really tremendous to see," she said.

She expects to see the cannabis industry to take off in 2021 if there's already no COVID-19 at the time. "So let's say we didn't have COVID this year, like everything is normal and fine. I would project a higher number of revenue coming in," she said.

Sablan said they're doing their part to ensure that they accommodate not only applicants, but also make sure that they're in compliance with the law and regulations.

For the commercial cannabis licensing or businesses, the 12 applications are still being processed and reviewed, she said.

"We anticipate more," Sablan said, adding that she has been meeting with

ing and wanting to learn more about how to apply. I sit with them and we go over the different processes," Sablan said.

For homegrown license applications, nine have been approved so far, but there are more other applications that are coming in, she said.

For the homegrown, Sablan said an annual fee is very cheap at \$75. "So with \$75, you are able to have six mature marijuana plants over time and 12 immature marijuana plants. So 18 total."

There are different limits for commercial licenses.

Sablan said they are also working with the Commonwealth Zoning Office and Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to draft a bill that would help them resolve the complications or obstacles

that they've been facing. Sablan said the zoning authorization is only for Saipan applications.

She said all Saipan applicants for cannabis commercial licensing need zoning authorization.

The managing director said the zoning authorization has to be received by going through the conditional use permitting process, which requires a public hearing.

"And I believe zoning only hosts a public hearing once or twice a month and only has limited available slots for the public hearing," she said.

Sablan said there are interests from Tinian and Rota for commercial, but nothing that has resulted into an application yet.

For homegrown, Sablan refused to discuss whether they have applications from Tinian and Rota.



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\$10K bail imposed on man who tried to elude police

The Superior Court has imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on a man who failed to appear in court and later tried to elude police officers when they tried to arrest him on a warrant.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho im-

posed the \$10,000 cash bail on Juan Delos Reyes Tydingco during his bail hearing last week.

Tydingco faces charges of fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, speeding, and reckless driving.

The Department of Public Safety arrested Tydingco because he was wanted for failure to appear in court.

Tydingco was remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections following the bail hearing and was ordered

to return to court on Nov. 12 at 9am for a preliminary hearing. His arraignment is scheduled for Nov. 17 at 9am.

According to court documents, an officer made a traffic violator stop on a sports car being driven by Tydingco on Sept. 9, at 9:25am.

However, when the officer

attempted to approach the vehicle by the driver's side, the car sped off. While the officer pursued the car, Tydingco allegedly drove recklessly at high speed, made unsafe lane changes, overtook several vehicles, and nearly caused collisions. Other police vehicles joined the pursuit, but later

lost sight of the car on As Terlaje Hill.

DPS central office later received a call from a San Vicente resident who said that Tydingco came into her property and wanted her to hide him but she refused. Tydingco then fled on foot to the jungle. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**



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Open enrollment for GHLI

The Department of Finance announced Monday that the open enrollment period for the CNMI Government Group Health and Life Insurance will be from Nov. 16, 2020, to Dec. 18, 2020, for coverage effective Jan. 1, 2021.

Despite widespread increases to health care premiums throughout the national insurance market due to the global coronavirus pandemic, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios have successfully obtained agreement that the health insurance employee premium rates will be lower than the national average.

According to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, "Now, more than ever, afford-

able and accessible health care coverage is a necessity for our government employees and plays a crucial role in providing resources for our islands' health care system, and safeguards families from the cost of unforeseen medical needs."

Atalig encourages government employees to take advantage of this enrollment period to ensure each employee and their families have the necessary resources to cover their health care expenses.

Pacifica Insurance, general agent for Aetna Insurance in Susupe at the Joeten Center, will be available to assist new and existing members. For more information call (670) 234-6267 option 3. **(PR)**

Active Employees	High	Low	Basic
Employee	\$80.35	\$25.66	\$2.21
Employee + 1 Dependent	\$164.72	\$52.60	\$4.54
Employee + Family	\$257.12	\$82.10	\$7.07

Retirees	High	Low	Basic
Employee	\$87.05	\$27.80	\$2.40
Employee + 1 Dependent	\$178.44	\$56.99	\$4.92
Employee + Family	\$278.55	\$88.94	\$7.66



KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

Request for Proposal for Financial Audit

Karidat Social Services is soliciting competitive sealed proposals to perform a financial and compliance audit on its records for fiscal years, 2020, 2021, and 2022. The proposal must be submitted to Karidat's office at Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan or mailed to Karidat Social Services; P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950 by December 15, 2020 at 4:30 pm.

I. Contents of Proposal: The following information must be included in the Audit Proposal:

- A. Title Page Containing
 1. RFP Subject
 2. Name of the Firm
 3. Local Address
 4. Telephone Number(s)
 5. Email address
 6. Name of contact person
 7. Submission date

II. Transmittal Letter:

- A. A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.
- B. State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.

III. Firm Profile:

Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and listing of clients serviced. The firm must make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are Certified Public Accounts (CPA's).

IV. Proposal Evaluation Criteria: The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.

- A. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed.
 1. Audit coverage
 2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
- B. Qualifications and experience of the firm
 1. Size and structure of the firm
 2. Ability to maintain continuity of project
 3. Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance programs and Non-Profit Organizations.
- C. Qualification and experience of staff to be assigned: education, position in the firm, number of years, and types of experience will be considered
 1. Qualifications of the audit team
 2. Supervision to be exercised over the firm's audit team
- D. Audit Fee

V. Audit Administration Matters:

- A. Karidat staff will prepare schedule as required by the Auditor.
- B. Audit Planning meetings, interim conferences and exit conference may be attended by the following officials
 1. Karidat's Board of Directors, the Executive Director, Accountants, and the Administrative Officer.
- C. Karidat will issue the Contract Award on January 15, 2021.
- D. The audit field work must be completed by April 15, 2021.
- E. The draft audit report must be completed by May 15, 2021.
- F. The Final Audit Report will be transmitted on June 01, 2021.

VI. Confidentiality of Audit Proposals: All audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposals must be labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and transmitted to the Executive Director, Karidat Social Services, P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to Karidat's Office located at the Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-028 Revision No.2

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi WWTP Clarifier in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have purchased this IFB before you do not have to repurchase but you would need to register with our office to receive a package.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier Revision No. 2" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) November 17, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on November 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Western Knudsen, P.E., CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer and to CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician, Christie L. Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

EPA awards over \$2.4M grant to CNMI's BECQ

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded over \$2.4 million to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Bureau of Coastal and Environmental Quality to strengthen its capacity to protect human health and the environment.

"We are pleased to support BECQ programs that are committed to achieving a better environment for all the residents of CNMI. We know BECQ will continue to do excellent work," said EPA's Pacific Southwest regional administrator John Busterud.

"The BECQ is implementing essential environmental programs to support health and environment in the CNMI," said Chad McIntosh, assistant administrator for International and Tribal Affairs. "We are proud to provide needed resources to the BECQ for this important work."

BECQ uses U.S. EPA funding to support air, water, and land inspections; monitor the safety of beaches and drinking

water; clean up contaminated sites; inspect fuel storage tanks; protect coral reefs; and, respond to emergencies.

Other environmental priorities for the funds include:

- Ensuring access to potable drinking water for all CNMI residents and working to remove the need for boil-water notices.

- Improving watershed health, stream water quality, and coral reef health.

- Reducing potential environmental and public health harm from unsafe handling of hazardous waste.

- Providing technical assistance to farmers on proper pesticide application techniques and eliminating illegal importation and use of unregistered foreign pesticides.

- Enhancing shared accountability for environmental protection and cultural preservation through intergovernmental collaborations.

BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera said of the award, "We welcome the news of this

grant award, which will fund our environmental protection programs and services for the new fiscal year. These programs and services benefit everyone in the CNMI, as we

all benefit from our pristine environmental resources. We are grateful to U.S. EPA Region 9 and also to our community, whose participation in our programs and services is crucial for effective environmental management."

U.S. EPA funding for

BECQ has been instrumental in enabling CNMI to advance several environmental priorities. For example, BECQ is able to regularly monitor 84 recreational beaches for microbiological contamination and provide notices to the public of any related risk.

As a result of EPA support, BECQ is also able to support the clean-up and redevelopment of former industrial land that may be contaminated, test schools and other buildings for radon contamination, and respond to disasters such as typhoons. **(PR)**

Santos: Inaccessibility of some lodgings pains some interisland referral patients

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) has asked the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to consider the accessibility of certain properties and guest rooms when lodging accommodations are provided for interisland medical referral patients with disabilities.

Santos told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday that interisland medical referral patients have raised concerns about certain lodging areas' limited space for wheelchairs and other accessibility requirements of the American with Disabilities Act. This makes it very difficult for patients to be placed or situated in those facilities, she said.

The senator recently asked CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña to look into the issue after learning that some interisland medical referral patients with disabilities have complained how difficult it was to move about in certain lodging areas from a physical infrastructure standpoint. Santos said these patients require accommodations that comply with the ADA.

She said the ADA states that people with disabilities are entitled to "the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations" that a public accommodation provides to its customers.

"In other words, every type of good or service a business

provides to customers is covered by the ADA," said the senator, adding that all businesses that serve the public must provide equal opportunities for customers with disabilities.

Santos said that ensuring that lodgings for patients with disabilities to provide special assistive parking lot accommodations, an accessible check-in counter, to wheelchair-accessible public entrances, pathways, ramps and/or lifts and restrooms, is necessary so that they are given equal opportunity.

This, she pointed out, will also confirm that the lodging facilities are compliant with both local and public laws as well as federal mandates such as the ADA.

Equally important, Santos said, is outfitting special assistance room types with the correct equipment, placement of fixtures, and dimensions that provide accessibility.

"A core concept in determining if a building is accessible or not is the path a person travels in getting from the parking area or sidewalk into the building, to the areas where he or she works or is served as a customer, and to the rooms, restrooms and other amenities that are provided in the facility," she said.

Santos commended Muña and her team for "making huge strides in improving the interisland medical referral program" and thanked them for providing lodgings to patients.



This Veterans Day

conveying the best wishes to the servicemen and women.
Thank you for being the real superheroes in our life.

May God bless you and protect you.


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 Fax: 322-7414
 Email: wushin2@pticom.com



To our men and women in uniform,
past, present, and future,
God bless you and Thank you.

CELEBRATING Veterans Day
WITH YOU ALL!

from the staff and management of

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 224

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Biden has an opportunity to lead

With the vote-counting now nearing its end, the results of this election were close but they were also clear. Democrat Joe Biden accomplished what only three other people have done since the age of FDR: He defeated a sitting president's bid for a second term in office. And with that victory, Biden will have the right to drive much of America's policy and politics for at least the next four years.

It seems equally clear that the formula for Joe Biden's successful campaign was as simple as it was straightforward. He won his party's nomination by presenting himself as a commonsense Democrat who wasn't running on some of the more extreme proposals of the left. He ran as a man interested in national unity and in restoring a modicum of civility to our civic discussions. Biden has a verbose style, but he also didn't make any single policy goal the centerpiece of his campaign. That leaves him a lot of flexibility as he takes office and lays out an agenda for the coming year.

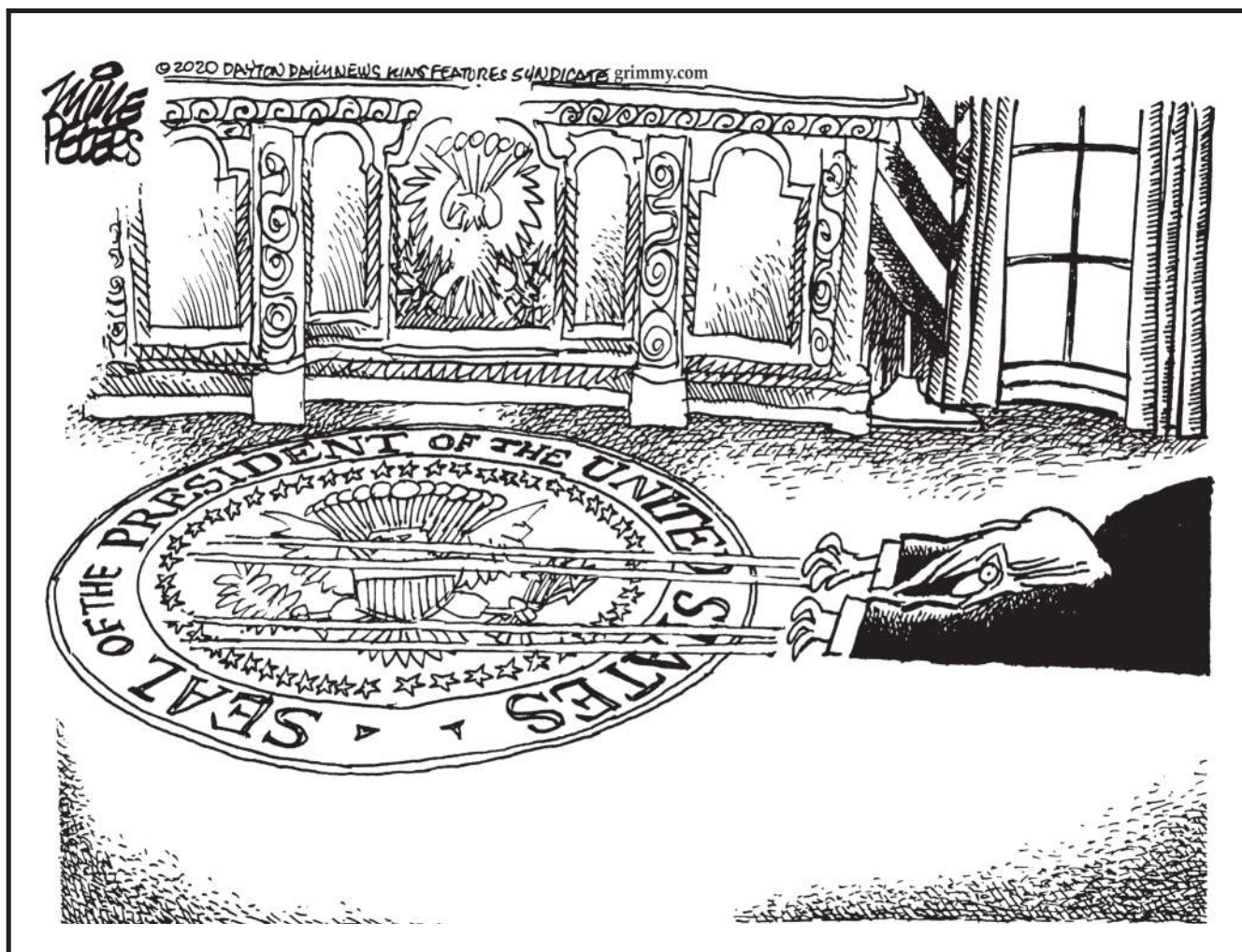
In our view, the campaign and election results leave Biden with less of a mandate than some might now claim, and more of an opportunity than many might realize. Biden will become president in the wake of a raucous and divisive national election that saw a record number of voters cast ballots but that nonetheless did not deliver a massive electoral victory for either major party. Republicans gained seats in the House and may hold onto enough seats in the Senate—pending runoff elections in Georgia—to retain control of one of the two houses of Congress. And the presidential election contest was close enough to leave the country waiting days for results from a half-dozen swing states.

All of that demonstrates that there isn't a consensus in this country for the policies emanating from the extreme edges of our politics. Rather, we'd argue, there is an opportunity for the next president to forge consensus about important if also fact-based policy approaches. If Biden seizes that opportunity, he'll find that even with a divided Congress, he'll put significant legislative reforms within striking distance and may even win enduring legislative victories. He'd also do a lot toward healing the partisan divide that has defined our politics for too long.

Much has been made in the past few days that George W. Bush had less of a mandate after the 2000 election than Biden has now, but he nonetheless offered strong leadership. But if the example is used to justify ramming significant policy goals through our political system, we will have learned the wrong lessons from that recent political history.

A fair review of that period shows signature initiatives winning meaningful bipartisan support. No Child Left Behind passed the House with a vote of 381-41 and sailed through the Senate on a vote of 87-10. The 2001 tax reform passed the House with 13 Democratic votes and the Senate with a dozen Democratic votes. The president's approach to politics then was decisive but also inclusive. He established clear goals and was successful at rallying others to them, something that laid the groundwork for national unity after 9/11.

See BIDEN on Next Page



Polling's death: Greatly exaggerated

A prolonged lead in the polls for the Democratic contender. A projected 90% chance of winning. And then the counting of the votes, with the only certainty being a thin margin for whoever is declared the winner.

As it was four years ago, pollsters are being blamed for a misleading preelection narrative, even after applying the lessons they learned from 2016: weighting to education in order to capture the non-college-educated white vote and investing more in statewide polling, particularly in battleground states, to provide a better assessment of the Electoral College.

While votes are still being counted, it is premature to provide definitive answers as to whether, why and how something went wrong with the 2020 presidential election polls. But before lampooning the polling industry, we can review what the pollsters were up against during this election cycle, as well as what polls can and cannot do, and how they should be used.

Even in normal election cycles, it is a challenge for pollsters to estimate the electorate. Polls typically sample known populations, but in preelection polling, the population of voters likely to turn out for any given election is inherently unknown. Any pollster's likely voter model is an educated guess based on variables like the composition of prior electorates, and individuals' past voting history, self-professed likelihood of voting and interest in politics.

While pollsters are modeling a future population, they are not predicting future behavior but rather assessing current responses. In reality, some respondents who tell a pollster that they will vote do not ultimately do so come Election Day, and vice versa.

This election added the unpredictability of a pandemic, which brought about new and various voting methods across the country. This made for an even more complex electorate for pollsters to model, given the partisan division over voting methods, the learning curve for many regarding how to vote early or by mail and the sheer volume of those who did so.

We may also once again find the 2020 polls erred in undercounting Trump voters. Given how accurate the 2018 polls were, and how polling has been fairly accurate over decades and across multiple countries, there is some discussion as to whether a large driver of unpredictability in 2016 and 2020 was Donald Trump himself, the common factor between both races. Studies have thus far shown no response bias between those who participate in surveys and those who do not, but underestimating Trump supporters for a second time brings back into question the possibilities of social desirability and response bias.

In addition, we pollsters need to do even more to educate the public about the probabilistic nature of polling, as embodied by

By **ASHLEY KONING**
New York Daily News

Ashley Koning is the director of Rutgers University's Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll.



the margin of error and other indicators. The press and the public in turn need to better understand and embrace this statistical uncertainty.

Preelection poll results are often treated as absolutes, a binary representation of who is winning or losing. But these results are simply estimates that represent a range of possible outcomes affected by the sample size of a poll, the numerical difference between the candidates being assessed, and the margin of error—the price we pay for selecting only a sample due to the impracticalities of interviewing everyone.

Our room for error furthermore grows as we drill down into subgroups within a sample. For example, in Florida, the overall sample sizes of various preelection polls may not have adequately or accurately captured smaller groups like Cuban Americans in Miami-Dade County, who were crucial to Trump's win.

Nationwide, the polling industry was already suffering from declining response rates, often attributed to the advent of smartphones, caller ID and an exponential increase in spam calls. But response rates have declined even further since 2016, driven at least in part by a hyperpartisan lack of trust in polling. This distrust may be insidiously dismantling one of the most vital tools we have for connecting the people to their policymakers.

Polls are not meant to be predictive but rather explanatory tools, especially for those important issues and policies that are vital to our democracy yet never see their day at a ballot box.

In its purest form, polling is the only participatory act in our democracy that requires few resources of the individual besides a few minutes of their time and, in turn, gives them a voice proportionate to their representation in the population. Few other forms of political participation can claim this.

So let's put a pause on polling's obituary. Polling is a science, so let's analyze the election's final results and assess where the polls may have gone astray; by definition, the continual assessment, dismantling, and rebuilding of scientific theory will only improve it.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Vaccine news doesn't mean Congress is off the hook

Monday's very favorable news from Pfizer Inc. — that its COVID-19 vaccine candidate was found to be more than 90% effective at preventing disease in early clinical trial results—raises hopes for a day, and soon, the pandemic will be behind us. It is also just one of the many vaccines that are under development. With such good news, it may be tempting for Congress to conclude that a major fiscal relief effort is no longer needed. That would be a mistake.

Putting the latest news in context, Pfizer's CEO noted that this was the most significant medical advance in the last hundred years. This is consistent with the vaccine's ability to curb a virus that has not only claimed too many lives but also risks long-term health damage to a growing number of people that manage to survive Covid-19. A vaccine is also critical in countering the economic and political damage that liberal democracies in particular face as they fight the virus while balancing public health and personal freedom.

The stunning news of over 90% effectiveness amplifies the positive potential. It allows for quicker government approvals and, by also enhancing the prospects of adoption by the population, brings forward the timeline for the much-hoped-for herd immunity.

With all this, and with market validation through a breathtaking jump in the Dow Jones Industrial Average and Russell indexes in particular, it would be tempting to conclude that the U.S. no longer needs exceptional policy support in the form of a new fiscal package. Why incur another increase in government indebt-

edness when the markets and economy can do the heavy lifting on their own in a more effective and sustainable manner? Such a view, while understandable, is problematic on five counts:

First, it ignores the damage that will still result in the run-up to the wide rollout of the vaccine. Even if vaccine production and distribution proceed smoothly, it will take time. From bankruptcies to unemployment, the risk is that temporary short-term economic and financial challenges will become longer-term problems. This is particularly true for small- and certain medium-sized companies that do not have easy access to capital markets and, therefore, do not benefit from wide-open and cheap bridge funding.

Second, it reveals a misunderstanding about debt and finance. Debt sustainability is not a single number—the level of debt—but also involves affordability in terms of cost and income generation potential. Incurring debt now to keep vulnerable segments of the economy viable and maintain long-term productivity is a good debt-financed investment, especially at current low interest rates.

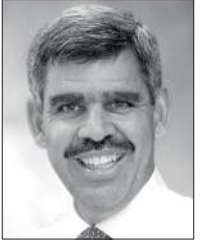
Third, it risks widening the gap between the haves and have-nots. Inequality—of income, wealth and opportunity—is already a problem. Without timely fiscal support, it will get worse in the journey to community immunity.

Fourth, it is short-sighted. The fiscal package should not just be about relief, as important as this is. It also should be about ensuring a better glide path to an economy that can quickly overcome the damage already incurred as a result of COVID-19. This requires starting now on measures such as infrastructure

By **MOHAMED A. EL-ERIAN**

Bloomberg Opinion

Mohamed A. El-Erian is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is president of Queens' College, Cambridge; chief economic adviser at Allianz SE, the parent company of Pimco where he served as CEO and co-CIO; and chair of Gramercy Fund Management. His books include The Only Game in Town and When Markets Collide.



modernization, climate-friendly economic rebuilding initiatives, labor market retooling and retraining, and efforts to bolster household financial security.

Finally, if fiscal policy continues to lag, the Federal Reserve will feel highly compelled to do more. Inevitably, it will again use tools that are poorly suited for the task at hand, adding to concerns about collateral damage and unintended consequences.

Rather than think of the good vaccine news and fiscal effort as substitutes, Congress should think about them as complementary. Indeed, there is ample reason to believe that the combined effect of a working vaccine down the road and fiscal stimulus now would be more than the simple sum of the parts. There is an opportunity, with both, to lay the groundwork for an even stronger and more sustainable recovery.

Who wears a mask and why? Here's what the data say—and what we should do about it

Who wears a mask? In short, not enough people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines recommend that Americans wear face masks to limit transmission of COVID-19, yet Americans have low compliance levels with this policy.

While 65% of Americans self-report regularly wearing a face covering in stores, only 44% report that other people in their communities regularly wear a mask. Another study found that observed mask wearing in public rose sharply in March and April, but has since plateaued and hovers around 59% today. These aggregate numbers hide salient trends: Men, those without college degrees, those in rural areas and those who are younger and have fewer preexisting medical conditions are less likely to report wearing a mask.

Another major predictor of mask wearing is political party; Democrats are more likely to wear masks than Republicans (76% versus 53%), even after controlling for differences in COVID-19 impacts in their communities, with conservative Republicans self-reporting mask wearing at 49%. Individuals who report voting for President Donald Trump in 2016 are at least 25% less likely to wear a mask than individuals who did not.

Why does this matter? Mask wearing is clinically proven to decrease transmission of COVID-19. Wearing a mask decreases the risk of getting COVID-19 by at least 30% and decreases the transmission of COVID-19 to others by at least 65%.

Put in perspective, if 95% of Americans wore masks from today to Feb. 1, more than 62,000 lives could be saved. Moreover, Goldman Sachs suggests that if everyone wore masks, the U.S. could avoid a \$1 trillion economic loss—equivalent to 5% of national gross domestic product—by preventing future “lock-

downs.” America is predicted to face a second wave of the virus—and in fact, the virus count is now increasing in a majority of states. Comprehensive scientific models suggest a national winter surge in cases, leading to 2,250 deaths a day by mid-January, unless behaviors change.

So, if masks can offer so much benefit, why aren't people wearing them? Well, firstly, behavioral economics holds that the perceived relevance of information available to us matters. If individuals do not know of anyone who has had COVID-19 or do not see those around them wearing masks, they are less likely to wear a mask themselves. Behavioral economics also describes optimism bias, which is particularly common among younger populations who overestimate the probability of positive events, such as not becoming seriously ill, and underestimate the probability of negative events, like death.

Studies have also found that men are more likely to be affected by optimism bias, including with regard to COVID-19. Perhaps the biggest contributing factor, however, is reactance bias—the human tendency to reclaim our sense of freedom when we feel it being taken away. At the start of the pandemic when rural, predominantly Republican America was told by urban, predominantly Democratic America to wear masks, it likely sparked a reactant reflex. Governors refusing to issue mask mandates due to perceived constraints on liberty, the connection between lockdowns and mask use, and President Donald Trump's refusal to wear a mask, all likely entrenched reactant beliefs.

So what do we do with this information? There has been a recent push for a national mask mandate. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, suggested a national mask mandate last month. While

By **HANA RYAN**

The Baltimore Sun

Hana Ryan (hryan5@jhu.edu) is a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University in the School of Advanced International Studies, where she focuses on economic policy.



a national mask mandate might be the best policy tool from a public health perspective, behavioral economics suggests that its effects will be limited unless reactance bias is addressed. A blanket mask mandate would likely increase adherence among those who sometimes wear a mask, but very possibly activate further reactance bias and decrease adherence among those who seldom wear a mask, severely limiting the policy's efficacy.

In order to decrease the transmission of COVID-19, there needs to be an emphasis on addressing reactance to masks. In addition to increased regulation encouraging mask wearing, there needs to be policies of sustained public service announcements that are direct and localized, and that reframe mask wearing as a way to support an individual's freedom to gather and to engage in commerce—instead of being an infringement on personal rights.

Research shows that in times of uncertainty people look to local communities for information. Local PSAs may mitigate reactance biases associated with top-down mask mandates and may activate availability biases by suggesting that COVID-19 is a present problem for the local community.

BIDEN

From Page 8

If Biden follows that model now, states like Texas could fare well. The new administration would set aside any designs to move against the oil and gas industry in the near term and instead focus on legislation that can win broad support on things like education, the economy, transportation, immigration and health care.

Every president has a unique set of challenges. For Biden, those will include overcoming a pandemic and getting us back to strong economic growth and full employment even as we deal with a range of issues involving equality, poverty and opportunity. There are deep divisions to deal with, but the leadership model for effectively driving positive change already exists. It starts with hitting the notes Biden turned to on Saturday when he said he will now






be president for every American, regardless of party preference. But it must continue with an approach to governing that will set national priorities with clear and compelling solutions and rallying others to specific policy prescriptions as opposed to pushing through extreme ideas on the strength of raw political power.

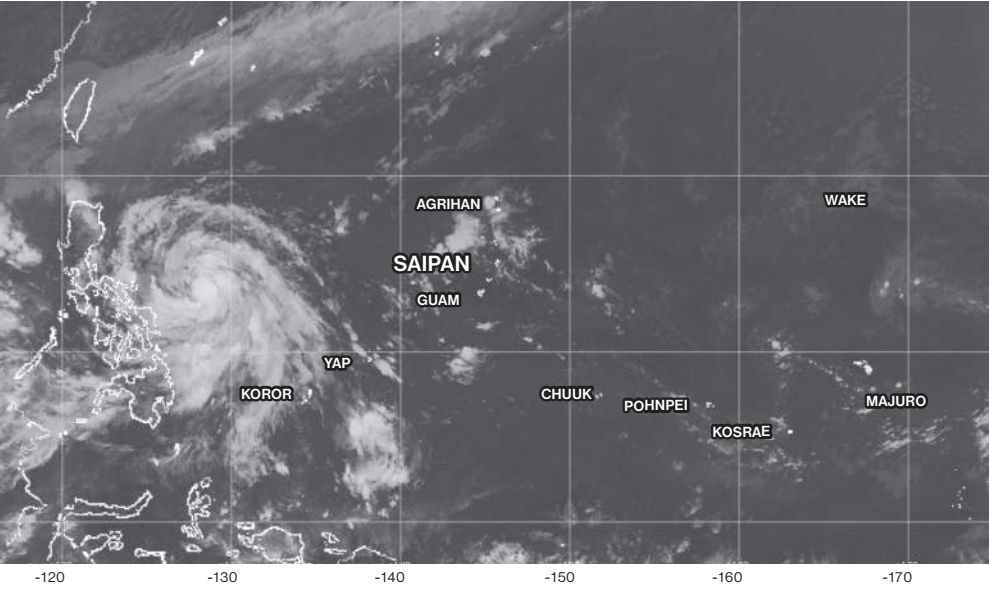
It's true that President Biden will arrive in Washington facing pressure from within his party and from political opponents who would love to unseat him four years from now. But then the same was true for Barack Obama in 2008, and especially so after Republicans gained control of the House halfway through his first term and the Senate for the last two years of his presidency. It was also true for George W. Bush, who had to deal with an evenly split Senate upon taking office and then a Democratic Senate four months into his first term when Vermont's Jim Jeffords left the Republican Party and caucused with the Demo-

crats. Bill Clinton had a Republican Congress (and an impeachment) to contend with during his last six years in office. George H.W. Bush had a Democratic Congress his entire presidency. And Ronald Reagan had to deal with a Democratic House for his entire time in Washington (though he had a GOP-controlled Senate for most of his presidency).

Politics is never easy, and it always seems to be one step away from devolving into raw partisan power plays. The difference comes when a president rises to the occasion and realizes that an election victory is an opportunity to lead, an opportunity to forge a national consensus and an opportunity to overcome division to make meaningful reforms that solve pressing national problems. Biden now will have that opportunity, and we should all hope that he takes it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The trade-wind disturbance that brought scattered showers to the Mariana Islands last night is slowly departing our region, as it's centered at 17N 143E, or roughly 210 miles northwest of Saipan. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms continue to develop near this feature, across the far northern and western coastal waters of Saipan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°			

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:59 AM	2:44 PM	-
Thursday	2:57 AM	3:28 PM	-
Friday	3:56 AM	4:13 PM	-
Saturday	4:57 AM	5:00 PM	-
Sunday	5:59 AM	5:00 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 54°			
Beijing	Sunny	50° / 28°			
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°			
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°			
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°			
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°			
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 54°			
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°			
New York	Mostly Sunny	38° / 26°			
Osaka	Showers	63° / 46°			
Paris	Showers	55° / 46°			
Busan	Sunny	57° / 39°			
Rome	Showers	63° / 43°			
Salem	Mostly Sunny	68° / 46°			
San Francisco	Showers	60° / 48°			
Seoul	Sunny	50° / 34°			
Tokyo	Showers	68° / 46°			
Washington, DC	Sunny	43° / 27°			

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.38	
9:53 AM	LOW TIDE	0.13	
4:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.88	
11:11 PM	LOW TIDE	0.55	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020			
DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020							
SAIPAN TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1205 11:00 11:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208 14:00 14:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily			
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily			
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1211 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1212 18:00 18:15 Temporarily Unavailable			
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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3 SIS students named Questbridge finalists

Saipan International School seniors Frederic “Mac” Guintu, Cindy Kim, and Oliver Lee were named finalists for the QuestBridge scholarship last week after completing and submitting an extensive application packet.

“It was surreal and sort of relieving,” Kim said of her finalist selection.

QuestBridge connected SIS graduate Malika Miyawaki last year with a full scholarship to Emory University. This year Miyawaki encouraged the seniors to apply despite the rigor of the application process. “Thanks to Malika’s encouragement, I was able to recognize my talents and that I could accomplish something as amazing as she did,” Guintu said.

The QuestBridge National College Match is a national program that connects high-achieving high school seniors with full four-year scholarships to the nation’s top colleges. This year, out of over 18,000 applications, 6,885 students were selected as National College Match Finalists. Finalists exhibit outstanding academic achievement and qualify financially.

“I did not expect this at all,” Lee said about his candidacy. “It took some time to understand the process, but because of QuestBridge it will make the rest of my application process easier if this does not

work out,” he added.

Finalists are selected by QuestBridge and will be considered by multiple college partners of their choice to be “matched” — admitted early with a Match Scholarship from the college. Finalists who are not matched have additional admission opportunities through QuestBridge and can receive financial aid packages that are often as generous as a full scholarship.

If picked as a Match Scholarship Recipient, students are admitted early to QuestBridge college partners with full four-year scholarships provided by the colleges and universities. The Match Scholarship is offered as part of a generous financial aid package provided by the college that covers the full cost of attendance, including tuition, room and board, books and supplies, and travel expenses.

Now the finalists must finish up any specific requirements for the schools on their list they hope to match with. “I’m finalizing my last supplements and then I just have to wait for my results to come in December,” Guintu said.

“Mac, Cindy, and Oliver are all deserving of this great honor,” SIS counselor Whit Altizer said. “We are excited to see where their path takes them in the future and we are hopeful that the QuestBridge schools will recognize their hard work and potential.” (PR)

MYPROS ONLINE TRAINING

How to build financial confidence

The Marianas Young Professionals, or MY-Pros, is launching its educational online training series with the presentation: “How to Build Financial Confidence (And It’s Not About How Much Money You Have)”




Guerrero


with a master’s degree in Economics from California State University, East Bay. His first job was in the Pricing Department as an underwriter of insurance premiums with Kaiser Permanente. He then went to work at Wells Fargo’s corporate headquarters in San Francisco. Since then, he’s been in the financial industry for over 12 years in various capacities handling anti-money laundering, fraud, compliance, investments, operations, and loans.

“Our MYPros family is initiating a series of professional learning opportunities open to its membership and the public. Leveraging our professional capacity in the CNMI, the series will explore various topics to promote personal and professional growth. Our target audience is young professionals, but we invite all community members to join,” said MYPros vice president Dr. Bobby Cruz.

Contact MYPros at board.mypros670@gmail.com. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-2.

A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: lms.dpwtst@gmail.com and ldcs.dpw@gmail.com no later than November 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions regarding DPW TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine M. Seman, Highway Administrator or Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator at the Department of Public Works TSD Highway Branch at 234-9828.

The following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-2:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan Amendment-2: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Amendment 2								
DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	\$ 975,986.00	\$ 1,417,604.20	\$ 1,931,986.00	\$ 1,644,486.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE-Design Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
I	Sinapalo	11	"Route 11 - Sabana Road Improvement, Phase II"	Construction		\$ 1,750,000.00		
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE Design		\$ 300,000.00		
II	San Jose	202	Route 202 - Hazard Elimination	PE Design Construction		\$ 500,000.00		
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE ROW Construction CM			\$ 1,000,000.00	
	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Installation of Traffic Light System	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 2,500,000.00		
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 200,000.00	
III	Susupe - Oleai	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 2	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 6,000,000.00 \$ 1,000,000.00		
III	Kristo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 1,000,000.00 \$ 200,000.00		
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design Construction CM-DPW	\$ 2,500,000.00			
III	Obyan	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements	Env. Update Construction CM	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00 \$ 300,000.00		
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00 \$ 150,000.00	\$ 1,500,000.00 \$ 150,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 1,500,000.00	
	Island-Wide		Island-Wide Hazard Elimination, Saipan	Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 19,175,104.20	\$ 9,339,486.00	\$ 1,701,986.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$ 603,225.00	\$ 20,813,805.99	\$ 5,682,001.79	\$ 385,815.79
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					\$ 20,220,766.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI					\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00
Annual Allocation:					\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)					\$ 24,867,291.99	\$ 24,857,105.99	\$ 9,725,301.79	\$ 4,429,115.79
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 19,175,104.20	\$ 9,339,486.00	\$ 1,701,986.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)					\$ 20,813,805.99	\$ 5,682,001.79	\$ 385,815.79	\$ 2,727,129.79
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)								

Business

KENSINGTON HOTEL

Say special code to avail of discounts

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrsaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Kensington Hotel Saipan always has something brewing for the community every month and for November, just say the magic words “I am November Man” when calling for a booking and once the special code is heard, you will automatically get special discounts for your room, drinks, and meals.

According to Sales and Marketing manager Katy Hung, Kensington Hotel is having a unique flash sale for all room promotions. “Guests can enjoy 10% off room rates, receive two complimentary drinks during your stay, and get one 30% discount coupon from OHAS... the mention of the special code is simple and fun!” she said

“Reservation will run for two weeks from the beginning of November until the 15th for booking and check-in starting now until Dec. 20, 2020. If you are planning something big and special, ‘It’s My Birthday,’ ‘Be There or Be Square,’ ‘Propose Your Love’ promotions are also available and inclusive of 10% off,” she added.

All these are available for



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Say “I am November Man” when booking for rooms at Kensington Hotel Saipan and avail of many discounts.

all basic room packages—the “B & B” and “The Incredible Family” is great for a quick weekend staycation for a family of five and for couples who want a romantic a get-away and. All rooms are ocean view.

Hung also said that exciting things are happening in their food and beverage section. For November, Loria has come up with a theme called “A Colorful Daily Gourmet Trip” where guests can taste flavors from all over the world. From Thursday to Saturday, different themed dinners are available—Italian Night, Asian Night, and the most popular Barbeque Night and for light eaters, an A La Cart lunch at

Loria on Saturday will be your best choice.”

“The ‘Irresistible Sunday Brunch’ continues to impress every Sunday from 11:30am to 2pm and the regular 10% local discount applies... For Thanksgiving, our ‘Turkey To Go’ is now available and I encourage people to call right away because it is limited supply... To better serve the community, Kensington Hotel is preparing more promotions to align with the festivities of the season in December,” she added.

For reservation and inquiries, call (670) 322-3311, or reservations@kensingtonsaipan.com or go to their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kensingtonsaipan> to receive first-hand update.

For reservation and inquiries, call (670) 322-3311

Pfizer says COVID-19 vaccine is looking 90% effective

Pfizer Inc. said Monday that its COVID-19 vaccine may be a remarkable 90% effective, based on early and incomplete test results that nevertheless brought a big burst of optimism to a world desperate for the means to finally bring the catastrophic outbreak under control.

The announcement came less than a week after an election seen as a referendum on President Donald Trump’s handling of the scourge, which has killed more than 1.2 million people worldwide, including almost a quarter-million in the United States alone.

“We’re in a position potentially to be able to offer some hope,” Dr. Bill Gruber, Pfizer’s senior vice president of clinical development, told The Associated Press. “We’re very encouraged.”

Pfizer, which is developing the vaccine with its German partner BioNTech, now is on track to apply later this month for emergency-use approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, once it has

the necessary safety information in hand.

Even if all goes well, authorities have stressed it is unlikely any vaccine will arrive much before the end of the year, and the limited initial supplies will be rationed.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government’s top infectious-disease expert, said the results suggesting 90% effectiveness are “just extraordinary,” adding: “Not very many people expected it would be as high as that.”

“It’s going to have a major impact on everything we do with respect to COVID,” Fauci said as Pfizer appeared to take the lead in the all-out global race by pharmaceutical companies and various countries to develop a well-tested vaccine against the virus.

Dr. Bruce Aylward, the World Health Organization’s senior adviser, said Pfizer’s vaccine could “fundamentally change the direction of this crisis” by March, when the U.N. agency hopes to start vaccinating high-risk groups.

Global markets, already buoyed by the victory of President-elect Joe Biden, rallied on the news from Pfizer. The S&P 500 finished the day with a gain of 1.2%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose more than 800 points. Pfizer stock was up more than 8%.

Still, Monday’s announcement doesn’t mean for certain that a vaccine is imminent: This interim analysis, from an independent data monitoring board, looked at 94 infections recorded so far in a study that has enrolled nearly 44,000 people in the U.S. and five other countries.

Some participants got the vaccine, while others got dummy shots. Pfizer released no specific breakdowns, but for the vaccine to be 90% effective, nearly all the infections must have occurred in placebo recipients. The study is continuing, and Pfizer cautioned that the protection rate might change as more COVID-19 cases are added to the calculations. (AP)

Nation

AFTER BIDEN WIN

McConnell: Trump OK to fight election

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite President-elect Joe Biden’s victory, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Monday President Donald Trump is “100% within his rights” to question election results, as GOP lawmakers fall in line behind the White House.

The Republican leader’s remarks, his first public comments since Biden was declared the winner of the presidential election, show how reluctant Trump’s allies on Capitol Hill have been to defy the president, even in his defeat.

Most Republicans are refusing to congratulate Biden or declining to push Trump to accept the outcome, even though there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud.

“Our institutions are actually built for this,” McConnell said as he opened the Senate. “We have the system in place to consider concerns and President Trump is 100% within his rights to look into allegations of irregularities

and weigh his legal options.”

McConnell said the process will play out and “reach its conclusion.”

Republicans are closing the Trump era much the way they started it, by joining the president in shattering civic norms and sowing uncertainty in institutions, now in a way that threatens the nation’s normal transition of power.

Privately, Republicans on Capitol Hill say they are in a tough spot, wary of crossing Trump and his most ardent supporters. But their actions are casting doubt on the durability of the nation’s elections system and impeding Biden’s new administration. The head of the General Services Administration under Trump has held off on formally beginning the Biden transition to the White House.

Trump has declined to concede the presidential race and is mounting legal fights in several states, but there has been no indication or evidence of voter irregularities or widespread fraud

in the election.

The president’s refusal to accept the results means the election disputes could drag for weeks as states certify their tallies or push to mid-December, when the Electoral College is set to vote.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he would encourage the president “not to concede.”

With the Senate majority on the line, Republicans don’t dare risk alienating Trump or his supporters ahead of Biden’s Jan. 20 inauguration.

In Georgia, where Trump is teetering, both Republican senators are being forced into a Jan. 5 runoff that will determine party control. Sens. David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler jointly called the their state’s election system an “embarrassment.”

Many Republicans have signaled a December deadline, pointing to the time it took to resolve the disputed 2000 race before Democrat Al Gore conceded to Republican George W. Bush.

Tropical Storm Eta floods already drenched Florida cities

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A deluge of rain from Tropical Storm Eta caused flooding Monday across South Florida’s most densely populated urban areas, stranding cars, flooding businesses, and swamping entire neighborhoods with fast-rising water that had no place to drain.

The system made landfall in the Florida Keys and posed a serious threat across South Florida, which was already drenched from more than 14 inches (35 centimeters) of rain last month.

“Never seen this, never, not this deep,” said Anthony Lys, who has lived in his now-waterlogged Fort Lauderdale neighborhood since 1996. He described hearing water and debris slamming against his shuttered home overnight.

After striking Nicaragua as a Category 4 hurricane and killing nearly 70 people from Mexico to Panama, the storm moved into the Gulf of Mexico early Monday near where the Everglades meet the sea, with maximum sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph).

“It was far worse than we could’ve ever imagined, and we were prepared,” said Arbie Walker, a 27-year-old student whose Fort Lauderdale apartment was filled with 5 or 6 inches (13 to 15 centimeters) of water.

“It took us 20 minutes to navigate out of our neighborhood due to the heavy flooding in our area,” Walker added. Floodwaters also submerged half of his sister’s car.

As much as 16 inches of rain damaged one of the state’s largest COVID-19 testing sites, at Miami-Dade County’s Hard Rock Stadium, officials said. Throughout the pandemic, it has been among the busiest places to get a coronavirus diagnosis. The site was expected to be closed until Wednesday or Thursday.

Eta hit land late Sunday as it blew over Lower Matecumbe, in the middle of the chain of small islands that form the Keys, but the heavily populated areas of Miami-Dade and Broward Counties bore the brunt of the fury.

It is the 28th named storm of a busy Atlantic hurricane

season, tying the 2005 record for named storms. Hurricane season lasts until Nov. 30.

By Monday evening, the storm was about 155 miles (250 kilometers) west-southwest of the Dry Tortugas, moving southwest at 14 mph (22 kph). It was expected to slow down further and strengthen overnight. Rain and wind were felt as far north as the Tampa Bay Area.

Forecasters said the system could intensify again into a minimal hurricane as it slowly moves up the southwest Gulf Coast. It is just far enough offshore to maintain its strength while dumping vast amounts of water across the lower third of the Florida peninsula.

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis called it a 100-year rain event.

“Once the ground becomes saturated, there’s really no place for the water to go,” Trantalis said. “It’s not like a major hurricane. It’s more of a rain event, and we’re just doing our best to ensure that the people in our community are being protected.”

Asia

A WORRIED ASIA WONDERS:

What will Joe Biden do?

TOKYO (AP)—As Asia comes to terms with the reality of a Joe Biden administration, relief and hopes of economic and environmental revival jostle with needling anxiety and fears of inattention.

From security to trade to climate change, a powerful U.S. reach extends to nearly every corner of the Asia-Pacific. In his four years in office, President Donald Trump shook the foundations of U.S. relations here as he courted traditional rivals and attacked allies with both frequency and relish.

Now, as Biden looks to settle tumultuous domestic issues, there's widespread worry that Asia will end up as an afterthought. Allies will go untended. Rivals—and especially China, that immense U.S. competitor for regional supremacy—will do as they like.

In the wake of perhaps the most contentious presidency in recent U.S. history, here's a look at how its aftermath—a Biden White House—will play out in one of the world's most important and volatile regions:

CHINA

Biden will likely look here first.

The two nations are inextricably entwined, economically and politically, even as the U.S. military presence in the Pacific chafes against China's expanded effort to have its way in what it sees as its natural sphere of influence.

Under Trump, the two rivals engaged in a trade war, and a lively exchange of verbal hostilities. A Biden administration could have a calming effect on those frayed ties, according to Alexander Huang, a strategic studies professor at Tamkang University in Taipei and a former Taiwanese national security official.

"I'd expect Biden to return to the more moderate, less confrontational approach of the Obama era toward China-U.S. relations," he said.

Greater outreach to China could prompt Washington to play down its support for Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, without necessarily reducing U.S. commitment to ensure the island can defend itself against Chinese threats, Huang said.

Retired chemical engineer Tang Ruiguo echoed a view shared by many in China of an unstoppable U.S. decline from global superpower status. "No matter who is elected, I feel the United States may go into turmoil and unrest and its development will be affected," Tang said.

THE KOREAS

Say goodbye to the summits.

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un went from threats

of war to three unprecedented sit-downs, which, though high-profile media events, did nothing to rid the North of its banned nuclear-tipped long-range missiles.

Kim must now adjust to a man his propaganda services once condemned as a "rabid dog" that "must be beaten to death." Biden, for his part, has called Kim a "butcher" and "thug," and said Trump had gifted a dictator with legitimacy with "three made-for-TV summits" that produced no disarmament progress.

Biden has endorsed a slower approach built from working-level meetings and said he would be willing to tighten sanctions on the North until it takes concrete denuclearization steps.

North Korea, which has yet to show any willingness to fully deal away a nuclear arsenal that Kim may see as his strongest guarantee of survival, prefers a summit-driven process that gives it a better chance of pocketing instant concessions that would otherwise be rejected by lower-level diplomats.

For South Korea, the new president will likely demonstrate more respect toward its treaty ally than Trump, who unilaterally downsized joint military training and constantly complained about the cost of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in the South to defend against North Korea.

JAPAN

The resignation this year of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ended one of Trump's few close, productive relationships with a foreign leader.

There's hope in Tokyo that Biden's more progressive ecological policies will help Japanese green companies and that he will take a hard line on China, with which Japan is in constant competition.

But there's also worry.

Under Biden, "America cannot afford to take care of other countries, and it has to prioritize its own reconstruction," said Hiro Aida, Kansai University professor of modern U.S. politics and history.

As Biden is consumed with his nation's many domestic troubles, from racial unrest to worries about the economy, health-care and the coronavirus, Japan could be left alone as China pursues its territorial ambitions and North Korea expands its nuclear efforts, according to Peter Tasker, a Tokyo-based analyst with Arcus Research.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The conservative Australian prime minister who was in power when Trump was elected, Malcolm Turnbull, may have spoken for many when he tweeted congratulations to Biden: "What a relief that you won."

There's hope that Biden will do better than the Trump administration, which granted Australian manufacturers exemptions from U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs in 2018 before reportedly having a change of heart a year later.

For New Zealand, there are aspirations to sell more milk and beef under a U.S. administration that's more open to free trade.

New Zealand and other Pacific nations also hope that Biden might help ease tensions with China.

New Zealand has found itself stuck between the two superpowers, relying on China as its biggest trading partner while maintaining traditional defense and intelligence ties with the United States.

INDIA

Not much will change with the host of security and defense ties shared by India and the United States. But a Biden administration could mean a much closer look at India's spotty recent human rights and religious freedom records, both of which were largely ignored by Trump.

Biden is also expected to be more critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalistic policies, which critics say oppress India's minorities, according to Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center.

The countries will work more closely to counterbalance China, a shared rival, Kugelman said. A Biden White House won't "risk antagonizing a country that is widely viewed in Washington as America's best strategic bet in South Asia," he said.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Some countries in the region, such as Malaysia, have pivoted toward China because of heavy investment and a focus on economic recovery, and "it will take time for the U.S. to rebuild trust," said Bridget Welsh, honorary research associate at the University of Nottingham in Malaysia. "U.S. power will never be what it was."

Biden is also likely to be more wary in his dealings with strongman leaders like the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, Thailand's Prayut Chan-o-cha and Cambodia's Hun Sen, said Richard Heydarian, an analyst in the Philippines.

"A more cautious Biden could also mean a degree of stability in relations with tricky allies and partners in Southeast Asia and the region," he said. "We are going to see American leadership, but much more in conjunction with regional players and powers, including Japan, Australia, India, European powers" and Southeast Asia.

World



In this March 10, 2011, file photo, Vice President of the United States Joe Biden, left, shakes hands with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Moscow, Russia. AP

UNTIL CHALLENGES END

Putin won't congratulate Biden

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin won't congratulate President-elect Joe Biden until legal challenges to the U.S. election are resolved and the result is official, the Kremlin announced Monday.

Putin is one of a handful of world leaders who have not commented on Biden's victory, which was called by major news organizations on Saturday. But President Donald Trump's team has promised legal action in the coming days and refused to concede his loss, while alleging large-scale voter fraud, so far without proof.

When Trump won in 2016,

Putin was prompt in offering congratulations—but Trump's challenger in that election, Hillary Clinton, also conceded the day after the vote.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Monday that this year is different.

"Obviously, you can see that certain legal procedures are coming there, which were announced by the incumbent president—therefore this situation is different, so we consider it correct to wait for the official announcement," he said.

The leaders of China, Brazil and Turkey also are holdouts in offering congratulations.

And Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador also said he would wait to comment until the legal challenges were resolved.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin offered a similar explanation of why President Xi Jinping has stayed silent.

"We understand the presidential election result will be determined following U.S. laws and procedures," he said.

A senior Turkish official said Ankara also was waiting for the various legal challenges to be settled before congratulating "the winner."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Governor

Public Assistance Office

DR-4235 | DR-4396 | DR-4404

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

ADDENDUM NO. 1

RFQ21-GOV-003

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance (PA) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the Supply of Materials, Labor & Equipment for the Repairs/Renovation and/or New Construction of Public Facilities as a result of Typhoon Mangkut and Yutu (FEMADR-4396-MP and FEMADR-4404-MP) for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees.

The project package and scope of work will be available on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at the Governor's Public Assistance Office, MH I Building Marina Heights Business Park, Saipan.

A MANDATORY Pre-Proposal meeting is scheduled on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 10:00am at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing to Mr. Patrick Guerrero, Public Assistance Officer, facsimile to (670) 664-2417 or email pguerrero@pa.gov.mp no later than 4 p.m., ChST, November 6, 2020.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications & Experience in Construction including Firm's Profile	30%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work	30%
3.	Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	15%
4.	Project and/or Management Approach	15%
5.	Visual examples of previous works	10%

Performance time for completion of the Repair/Renovation and/or New Construction will be dependent on the type of project. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with a minimum Five (5) firms. The Public Assistance Office may elect to retain all or more than Five (5) firms. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Depending on the number of projects, the PA Office will request each firm to submit a price quotation for these projects, and selection will be based on the lowest cost.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFQ21-GOV-003, Construction Services** For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan **no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, November 16, 2020**. Proposers located outside the CNMI shall obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent form that is provided in this RFQ. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, November 16, 2020 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. Note that failure to submit this Notice of Intent Form will be cause for rejection of proposal (This only applies for proposers located outside of the CNMI). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, November 16, 2020, and must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than November 25, 2020. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/s/ Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Good Housekeeping

By LISA BOONE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In your eagerness to add warmth to your interiors during the quarantine gardening boom, don't forget about one humidity-filled haven: the bathroom.

"Bathrooms are a fun category," said Annette Gutierrez of the Los Angeles plant store Potted. "I've got a whole hoyia thing happening in mine. I love how they hang. Hanging plants are great in the bathroom where counter space is at a premium, and since most houseplants are tropicals, they love the humidity."

Filled with moisture, bathrooms are an ideal environment for humidity-loving houseplants, but don't substitute humidity for watering. "You still have to water your plants," Gutierrez added.

Bloomscape plant expert Joyce Mast finds the bathroom a fun place to experiment. (And what better time than during a long-running pandemic?) You can place them on a shelf, mount them on tile with adhesive-backed hooks or hang them from a tension rod. "Don't be afraid to place plants in the shower," Mast said. "They will love the steam and moisture boost, and the gentle rain will clean their leaves of dust and debris."

Plants may do well in humidity, but remember they need light. Several months ago, I received an asparagus fern terrarium as a gift. But after two months in my bathroom, the fern turned yellow due to insufficient light. So take your plant's light needs into consideration before placing it in the bathroom.

Here are 10 houseplants that should do well in the bathroom. Have a favorite bathroom plant or a success story of your own? Tag us on @latimesplants and we just might share it with our Instagram followers.

1. Fern

Many ferns, such as Kimberly queen fern, bird's nest fern and blue star fern thrive in extra moisture and will grow beautifully in a bathroom habitat according to Mast. Although many ferns grow at the base of trees in their natural habitat, it's a good idea to give them medium light or bright filtered light indoors to encourage growth.

2. Gardenia

Gardenias are beautiful plants that do best in bright light but love the high humidity environment of a bathroom. "If you have a window in your bathroom that gets at least four hours of sun, for example, south- or west-facing, this would be a perfect spot to add a gardenia," Mast said.

3. Snake plant

Sansevieria is another plant that tolerates low light conditions and would be perfect to add to a bathroom that receives only minimal natural light. "Snake plants need very little water and thrive on neglect, so they are a perfect addition for someone who is new to plants or needs a plant that doesn't mind being forgotten from time to time," Mast said.

4. Spider plant

Chlorophytum comosum, or spider plants, are fun, easy houseplants that would make a great addition to a bathroom as they are tolerant of low light and love



Gardenia, snake plant, and monstera are some of the plants that can thrive in bathrooms.

extra humidity. "Spider plants would be great as a hanging plant above a bathtub for a dramatic effect," Mast said. "Take advantage of overlooked surfaces like behind the toilet or over a vanity if you're low on shelf space." Spider plants are easy to propagate because they produce plantlets at the ends of their stalks. Simply cut one of the plantlets and place it in water. When roots are about an inch long, transfer the plant to potting soil.

5. Parlor palm

Like most tropical plants, Chamaedorea elegans thrives in warm, humid rooms, so it helps to mist them or place them on a tray filled with moist pebbles. The miniature palm is a slow grower that can reach about 3 feet high, so you don't have to worry about it overtaking the

small space of a bathroom.

6. Prayer plant

Calathea, often called prayer plant because of the way its leaves open during the day and close at night, will thrive in medium to low light and the added humidity that a bathroom would provide. Although beautiful, with dramatic foliage, calathea can be a diva and needs consistent watering, pruning and feeding.

7. Nerve plant

Fittonia plants can be finicky but do well if they have warmth, humidity and good lighting. Just don't place them in direct sunlight or their delicate leaves will become brown and brittle. Keep the soil barely moist at all times and give it a regular misting or place it

10 humidity-loving houseplants that will thrive in your bathroom

on a tray of wet pebbles. If you want a fuller look, pinch the stems for denser growth.

8. Monstera

Monstera deliciosa, also called swiss cheese plant, is trendy (check out #MonsteraMonday on Instagram) and for good reason: It's a dramatic, low-maintenance houseplant that is easy for beginners. Monstera does best in bright filtered light and on pebble trays. A small plant is a good choice for the bathroom as monstera is a fast grower. If it grows too fast, train it with a moss-covered pole.

9. Orchid

Phalaenopsis from Trader Joe's will do well if the bathroom has a window, said Huntington orchid specialist Brandon Tam. "The higher

humidity is a definite plus but not mandatory," he said. "I recommend having a few orchids in the bathroom if you have space. People will have higher success with the more observations that they make. The bathroom is one of the more visited rooms. That's why I tell people to put them where they will be able to check on them throughout the day."

10. Lipstick plant

The long-stemmed Aeschynanthus radicans, also known as lipstick plant, is an excellent hanging plant for the bathroom as it prefers high humidity. Give it bright light, moderate water and misting and it will produce bright red 2-inch-long flowers that peek out of 1-inch calyxes, or tubes, that resemble a tiny tube of lipstick.

By HANNAH HERRERA
GREENSPAN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

This year has, without a doubt, thrown us a few curveballs, and the holidays will be no different. Why not give your friends and family members homemade presents? Whether you are looking to save a few bucks, in need of something to do while at home or procrastinating on purchasing presents, check out this guide to products and kits for making your own one-of-a-kind gifts.

Cullen Aesthetic scrunchie-making kit

Put together a homemade scrunchie for your favorite VSCO girl or the '90s enthusiast in your life. This scrunchie-making kit from The Cullen Aesthetic has all the materials you'll need to crochet four velvet scrunchies. \$30, etsy.com

Revival candle-making kit

Who doesn't love candles? This DIY candle making kit

Here's what you need to make awesome DIY gifts on a budget

from Revival Homestead Supply provides all the materials you'll need to make three personalized lavender candles for your friends and family. \$38, uncommongoods.com

Yarn Needles and Thread beginners knitting kit

If you want to knit gifts this year but don't know how, Yarn Needles and Thread's beginners knitting kit includes an online knitting tutorial, four yarns and a set of bamboo knitting needles. \$32.10, etsy.com

Grow and Make hot sauce-making kit

Let your loved ones enjoy some heat with this hot sauce kit from Grow and Make. The kit comes with all of the ingredients to make three bottles of hot sauce. \$39.95, shop.growandmake.com

Grow and Make chocolate truffle-making kit

Chocolate is essential during the holidays, especially in 2020. Treat your loved ones like royalty by making some delectable truffles with Uncommon Goods' kit and without all the equipment and mess of tempering chocolate. What a win-win! \$35, uncommongoods.com

Bath bombs from Dazzling Daisies organza bags and Aveda essential oils

Pamper your loved ones this holiday season by making easy bath bombs. Simply fill these organza drawstring bags with Epsom salts, dried flowers from Amazon, and citrus zest or essential oils from Aveda to create luxurious baths. Plus, the organza bags can be reused

by the recipients to make their own bath bombs in the future! \$4.25, dazzlingdaisies.com

2 Fun Guys shiitake mushroom log kit

Help your loved ones easily grow their own organic mushrooms on this mess-free log kit from 2 Fun Guys USA. The kit comes with a hand-cut log that the company says will turn out a crop of Shiitake mushrooms every two to three months for up to three years. \$29.95, williams-sonoma.com

The Cookie Cutter Shop 13-piece mini Christmas cookie cutter set

Give the classic gift of Christmas cookies this year. This timeless 13-piece mini cookie cutter set from The Cookie Cutter Shop includes all the holiday favorites, including

a snowflake, angel, snowman and tree. \$10.95, etsy.com

Uncommon Goods DIY tie dye kit

Tie dye isn't just for the summer, and you can make a wide range of gifts with Uncommon Goods' kit. Tie dye something classic like white T-shirts, or try a thin cloth for a tapestry or a plain tote bag. \$14.99, uncommongoods.com

Sea of Bliss Shop DIY planter kit

In case you want to give your loved ones a gift they can DIY, this planter kit from Sea of Bliss Shop is perfect for your favorite Pinterester or anyone looking to cut down on screen time. The kit comes with an upcycled container, an air plant, washi tape, decorative paper, moss, brush, glue, instructions and plant care tips.

\$28, etsy.com

'Homemade' brownies with Mason jars from Michaels

If you want to spread holiday cheer through sweets without actually having to bake, give your friends and family members "homemade" brownies by putting the dry ingredients from your favorite recipe into Mason jars. For extra holiday cheer, decorate the Mason jars with ribbons, pipe cleaners, washi tape or paint. Michaels sells a pack of 12 Mason jars for 10 bucks. \$9.99, michaels.com

Michaels white cards and envelopes

Step up your holiday card game by making your own. With this Michaels set of a dozen blank cards, all you'll need are watercolors, paint, colored pencils, gel pens, markers, oil pastels or crayons to express yourself. \$7.99, michaels.com.

Life & Style

In court moves, **Britney Spears** seeks freedom from father

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears wants to be freed from her father.

The pop star's moves have been missing from stage and screen in a career hiatus that shows no signs of ending, but she's been making all kinds of maneuvers in court in an attempt to gain greater control over her

life and money after 12 years of a court conservatorship run mainly by her dad, James Spears.

Tuesday afternoon, a Los Angeles judge will hear arguments on Spears' requests, the boldest of which would remove James Spears as co-conservator for what his daughter says is an unwillingness to

It was all a dream: Whitney, B.I.G. inducted into Rock Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—In a normal year, the newly inducted Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class would have hit the stage and perform the well-known songs that made them famous and helped them enter the prestigious organization.

Not in 2020.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, this year's all-star group was inducted Saturday night in a taped HBO special that told the stories of Whitney Houston, Notorious B.I.G. and the Doobie Brothers' rise to fame and how acts like Nine Inch Nails, T. Rex and Depeche Mode heavily impacted the music industry and generations after them.

As she inducted Houston

into the Rock Hall, Grammy-winning singer Alicia Keys gave a beautiful, heartfelt speech about one of the best singers in pop history.

"We all know what a miraculous singer Whitney was, perhaps the greatest voice of our all-time. We all know how her unprecedented success brought Black women into the absolute highest reaches of the music industry's pantheon," said Keys, who wrote a song for Houston's last album. "We all know that her music will live forever—that music, that everlasting voice is her final generous gift to us. And she will now be one of the brightest lights ever to shine in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame."

Country singer Lee Brice to miss CMA Awards due to COVID-19

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Lee Brice tested positive for COVID-19 and will not perform as scheduled at the CMA Awards on Wednesday.

A representative for Brice told The Associated Press on Sunday that he is "in good spirits and not experiencing any symptoms."

Brice was tested ahead of the awards show, which will be broadcast on ABC from Nashville, Tennessee, where

he had been scheduled to perform with Carly Pearce. Pearce and Brice are both nominated for their duet "I Hope You're Happy Now," in the categories musical event of the year and music video of the year.

Brice, who is known for hit songs like "I Drive Your Truck" and "I Don't Dance," will be isolating at home until he's cleared by a doctor, according to a statement from his representative.



^{AP}
In this Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, file photo, singer Britney Spears makes an appearance in front of the Park MGM hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

share control of her more than \$60 million in assets.

The conservatorship, known in many states as a guardianship, began in 2008 when she was having serious mental struggles and an often public meltdown. The arrangements are normally limited to people with severely diminished ability to make decisions for themselves, and are meant to be temporary, but

Britney Spears has remained under court control longer than anyone expected.

She has acknowledged that the arrangement was necessary when it began, and probably saved her career, and she remained silent both in public and in court for nearly all of its existence.

But starting in August she began publicly seeking to choose who oversaw her life and money, asking for greater transparency in the court's often secret moves, and even declaring that she was sympathetic to fans who have increasingly demanded in protests and online posts that those in control must #FreeBritney.

BTS, Lady Gaga win top awards at MTV Europe Music Awards

The South Korean pop group BTS won a leading four awards including best song for "Dynamite" and best group at the MTV Europe Music Awards Sunday night, while Lady Gaga took the best artist

prize. BTS also picked up best fans and best virtual live for Bang Bang Con.

The show honoring the best in global music aired Sunday on the network with performances from Alicia Keys,

Sam Smith, Doja Cat and DaBaby. The girl group Little Mix hosted.

Gaga, who went into the event with the most nominations, beat out Harry Styles, Justin Bieber, Dua Lipa, Miley Cyrus and The

Weeknd for the best artist prize. She lost out for best video, however, which went to DJ Khaled for "Popstar." The collaboration with Drake bested the likes of Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion for "WAP."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kamala Harris books surge in popularity after election

(AP)—Books by and about Kamala Harris proved to be a popular purchase following the election. The vice president-elect was the subject or author of four books on Amazon's top 10 Sunday. They included her own children's book "Superheroes Are Everywhere," her memoir "The Truths We Hold: An American Journey," a children's book by her niece Meena Harris called "Kamala and Maya's Big Idea" and Nikki Grimes' illustrated "Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice." Harris made his-

tory as the first Black woman to become vice president. The California senator, who is also the first person of South Asian descent elected to the vice presidency, will become the highest-ranking woman ever to serve in government. President-elect Joe Biden also got a spot on the charts just outside of the top 10. Dr. Jill Biden's children's book "Joey: The Story of Joe Biden" landed in 14th place.

'Jeopardy!' pays tribute to Alex Trebek in poignant message

NEW YORK (AP)—"Jeopardy!" paid tribute to

Alex Trebek on Monday in a poignant message that celebrated the show's longtime, unflappable host of 37 years. The day after Trebek died at age 80 following a battle with cancer, the show's executive producer, Mike Richards addressed viewers from the "Jeopardy!" set in a taped introduction. "Over the weekend we lost our beloved host, Alex Trebek. This is an enormous loss for our staff, for our crew, for his family, for his millions of fans," said Richards. "He loved this show and everything it stood for." Richards said Trebek taped his final episodes less

than two weeks ago. Beginning Monday, those last shows hosted by Trebek are set to air through Dec. 25. "He will forever be an inspiration for his constant desire to learn, for his kindness and for his love of his family," said Richards. "We will air his final 35 episodes as they were shot. That's what he wanted. On behalf of everyone here at 'Jeopardy!' thank you for everything, Alex." Richards concluded with the show's trademark opening—"This is 'Jeopardy!'"—which was followed by a moment of silence on the "Jeopardy!" set with lights dimmed.

Letter-writing fades away when needed more than ever

DEAR ABBY: Would you please address again the importance of expressing gratitude via a handwritten note when a generous gift has been given? We grandparents would love it to be acknowledged by our grandchildren. Some of them are better than others at this. My take is that their parents, although they were taught properly, didn't take the time to emphasize the importance of expressing gratitude.

I don't accept the notion that "people just don't do that anymore." When I give a generous gift to a newlywed couple or a grandchild, the money came out of my bank account. I want to know my gift was received and appreciated. I have almost reached the point where, in the future, I will respond "not able to attend" and send nothing when I know the odds of it being acknowledged are practically nil and the couple is, for instance, a distant relative. Abby, is that letter-writing publication of yours still available? It's obviously still needed.

DISGUSTED IN ALBUQUERQUE

DEAR DISGUSTED: Yes, my Letters booklet is still available. The issues you raise are ones I hear about often from readers. However, you may be judging these folks a bit harshly. Many people put off writing letters because

they don't know how to express their feelings via the written word and fear they will say the wrong thing. They think a thank-you note must be long and flowery when, in fact, short and to the point is more effective.

That is the reason why "How To Write Letters for All Occasions" was written. It contains samples of thank-you letters for birthday gifts, shower gifts and wedding gifts, as well as the ones that arrive around holiday time. It also includes letters of congratulations and ones regarding difficult subjects, such as the loss of a parent, a spouse or a child. It can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus a check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. With the holiday season fast approaching, this is the perfect time to reply with a handwritten letter, note or well-written email.

Because letter composition is not always effectively taught in the schools, my booklet can serve as a helpful tutorial—not only a valuable tool for parents to use in teaching their children to write using proper etiquette, but also a handy guide for anyone who puts off writing because they don't know what to say.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: Is weekly intimacy unusual at 72 years of age?
WONDERING IN TEXAS

DEAR WONDERING: Not for someone who has a partner who is willing and able.

DEAR VETERANS: For your service to our nation, I salute you. My thanks to each of you on this Veterans Day. You are the personification of patriotism, self-sacrifice and dedication to our country. Today I would also like to recognize your families for the sacrifices they, too, have made.
Love, ABBY

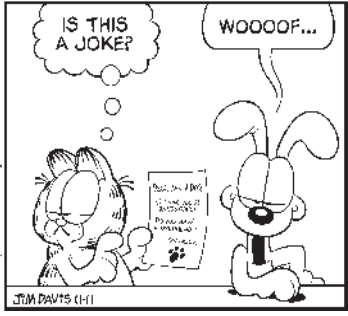
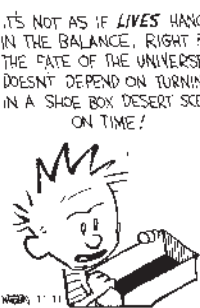
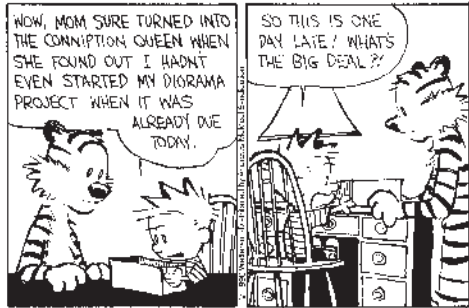
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

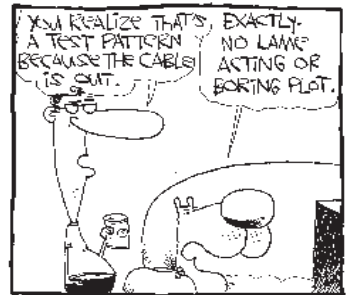
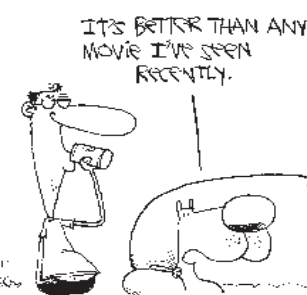
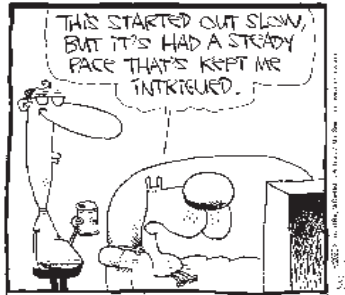


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Ga. neighbor 4 Slightly wet 8 Coin toss 12 Slithery fish 13 "Understood" 14 Leak slowly 15 Atlas page 16 Grass cutter 18 Photoshoper 20 Homer's neighbor 21 Austen novel 24 Boxer's dream 28 Continent, e.g. 32 Peepers 33 ET's craft 34 "Tuesdays With Morrie" author 36 Gym unit 37 Damon of Hollywood

39 "Downton Abbey" character 41 Preceding 43 Loony 44 — tai 46 Plus 50 Handout in a diner 55 Commotion 56 Writer 57 Bell sound 58 Ultra-modernist 59 Bard 60 Faxed 61 Tolkien creature 11 For each 17 Ran into 19 Nap site 22 Teen hangout 23 Equally dreadful

2 Starring role 3 Dog food brand 4 Pickle 5 Botanist 6 Kitten's cry 7 Ivy League team 8 Restaurant fan 9 Blue 10 Noun-to-verb suffix 11 For each 17 Ran into 19 Nap site 22 Teen hangout 23 Equally dreadful

25 Model Banks look 26 Lusty 27 Glimpse 28 Sugar unit 29 Miles away 30 Terse denial 31 Pop 35 "I'm to blame ..." 38 Male feline 40 Peaks (Abbr.) 42 Fan's cry 45 Rap-scallions 47 Logical 48 Idyllic place 49 Horn sound 50 Napkin's place 51 Half of dos 52 SSW opposite 53 Shoe width 54 Indian bread

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterdays answer 11-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Leonardo DiCaprio, 46; Calista Flockhart, 56; Demi Moore, 58; Marc Summers, 69.

Happy Birthday: Join a cause. Work toward a common goal, and make a difference. Make this year one of hope, hard work and overdue change. Do whatever it takes to have an impact on your community, friends and family. Leave nothing to chance, and use every means available to you to send and enforce a positive message. Your numbers are 8, 15, 23, 27, 32, 38, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Use your energy wisely. Focus on becoming physically fit, doing something that makes you feel accomplished or spending time with someone who makes you feel good about yourself. Practice moderation, mindfulness and promoting solutions that encourage doing what's best for everyone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Finish what you start before moving on to something new. Discuss your thoughts with someone who has always offered helpful suggestions, and it will encourage you to take your time and do things according to protocol. Think big, but don't go over budget.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take better care of the ones you love. Nurture relationships, and put greater emphasis on honesty and loyalty. Be willing to offer help when needed and to work as a team player. Love and romance are on the rise.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Verify facts. Don't act on an assumption or pick sides prematurely. Pay close attention

to how others respond; it will help you make up your mind regarding what you want to do next. Don't take a physical risk.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Exercise will help ease stress. Set physical goals that will encourage you to make a positive lifestyle change. Distance yourself from people who use the power of persuasion to get you to participate in something that doesn't benefit you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change will encourage you to strive for a brighter future. Don't hold back when you should contribute what you have to offer. The best way to get ahead is to participate. Be demonstrative, and you will gain respect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems will surface that leave you feeling unsettled. Size up whatever situation you face, and look for alternatives that favor you as well as those you love. Don't waffle when change is required. Self-improvement, romance and family bonding are encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Avoid excessive behavior. Speak up on behalf of yourself, your beliefs and those less able. Structure your time and effort in a positive, helpful manner. Run your home in the way that works best for you. Choose to be eccentric.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stop dawdling and start doing. Refuse to let your emotions take over and lead you the wrong path. Plan your strategy, and make your move. Finish what you start, and ignore outside interference. A romantic gesture will brighten your day.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep life simple, and don't clutter your mind or your schedule with matters that don't concern you. Stay focused on what you are trying to achieve, and avoid getting into a scuffle with someone who doesn't see things your way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Clear your debt, lower your overhead and spend more time making personal adjustments that will lead to a healthier and happier life. Do whatever it takes to ease stress and to reset your direction to better suit your needs. Romance is favored.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll find new ways to manage your money and how you go about implementing the changes you want to make. Update documents, check bank statements and reassess your eating habits. A fitness routine will improve your state of mind.

Birthday Baby: You are curious, determined and possessive. You are attentive and original. Visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1 4 5 8 6 2 3 4 8 5 6 4 8 4 2 9 7 3 9

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4 2 1 7 6 5 9 8 3 9 5 3 2 1 8 6 7 4 7 8 6 9 4 3 2 1 5 5 9 4 1 2 7 3 6 8 3 1 2 6 8 4 5 9 7 6 7 8 5 3 9 4 2 1 2 3 7 8 5 6 1 4 9 1 4 9 3 7 2 8 5 6 8 6 5 4 9 1 7 3 2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/11 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CAR AIR FRESHENERS Solution: 8 letters S U R T I C S T R O P I C A L T E L L E M S K L I N E N D P R A N C H E R R Y I N I N I U A E M G R A P E S O R A T F R W K W O O F W D E A L E R F I B C F O R L N A D S L E G U F E U I U L A O N I P I N E S I R R I F R A C P I T R E E R T E B A M I A L E A T H E R Y E U D I N B B P C A N D L E L U N N N S R E M M U S O Y T E Q T A O E A L L I N A V A L M U M R E C V C O F F E E R I O O B Z H L O A Y E N O H P F N B E P I L C C L T E E W S R

Williams, Lewis take ROY honors



WASHINGTON (AP)—

Much like one of his lofty leaps at the wall, Kyle Lewis soared above the field.

The center fielder for the Seattle Mariners won the AL Rookie of the Year award Monday night, and Milwaukee Brewers reliever Devin Williams took home the NL honor.

The 25-year-old Lewis received all 30 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association

of America. He is the 12th unanimous winner of the AL award, joining a prestigious list that includes Carlton Fisk, Derek Jeter, Mike Trout and Aaron Judge.

"It's just a great first step for me and being in that category, it's just really special," Lewis said.

Williams made his own history, becoming the first pitcher to win Rookie of the Year without recording a save or making a start during his award-winning season—reflecting the increased importance of the bullpen in today's

Fired Astros GM files \$22M breach of contract lawsuit

TEXAS (AP)—Former Houston Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow has filed a breach of contract lawsuit against the team, seeking more than \$22 million in salary owed under his deal when he was fired in January.

The suit, filed Monday in Harris County District Court in Houston, claims Luhnow was unaware a camera was used to steal signs during the team's run to the 2017 World Series title, which baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred found violated baseball rules against electronics.

Luhnow and manager AJ Hinch were suspended for the season last Jan. 13 by Manfred and fired by the Astros later that day. The team was fined \$5 million and stripped of its first- and second-round draft picks in both 2020 and 2021. Hinch was hired as manager of the Detroit Tigers on Oct. 30.

"MLB's 'investigation' actually was a negotiated resolution between Astros owner Jim Crane and MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred that enabled the team to keep its World Series championship, went to great lengths to publicly exonerate Crane and scape-goated Luhnow for a sign-stealing scandal that he had no knowledge of and played no part in," Luhnow's lawyers wrote. "The sign-stealing activities were not directed by the Astros' front office. Rather, they were devised and executed—as noted by the commissioner's own findings -- by baseball operations employees in collaboration with coaches and players."

Luhnow's lawyers alleged Tom Koch-Weser, the Astros' director of advance information, was the only one of 70 witnesses in MLB's investigation to claim Luhnow spoke of electronic sign stealing. They claimed Koch-Weser stole signs and lied during baseball's investigation and

alleged the Astros told Koch-Weser "he could keep his job as long as his actions were sanctioned by his supervisors, including Luhnow."

They said Manfred's investigation "could produce only one untrustworthy source—the actual ringleader of the Astros' sign-stealing schemes who 'implicated' Luhnow to save his own job."

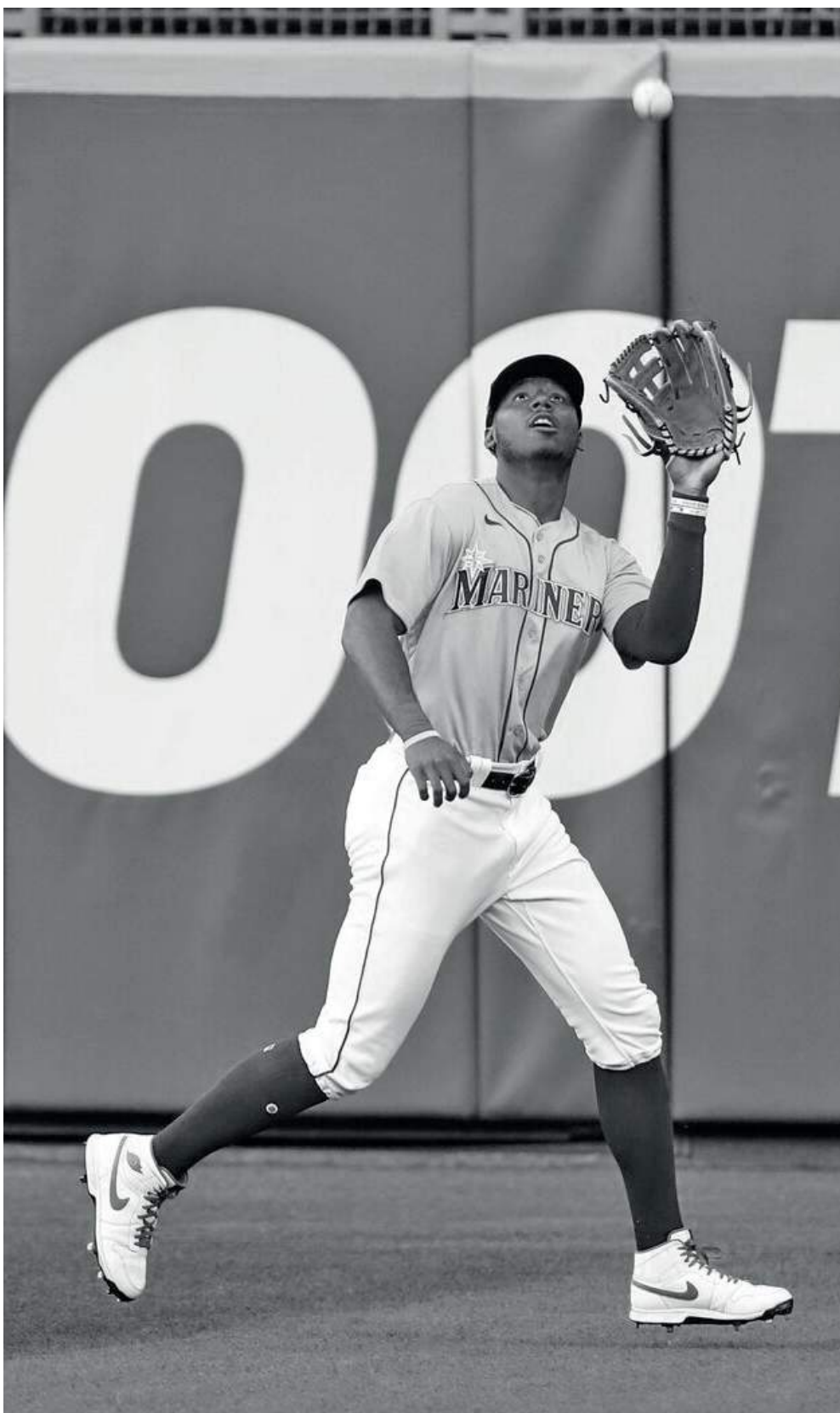
MLB declined to comment, spokesman Michael Teevan said, and the Astros declined comment, according to spokesman Gene Dias. Koch-Weser did not respond to emails seeking comment.

"The 'investigation' apparently did not review—and the commissioner conveniently neglected to mention in his report, the more than 22,000 contemporaneous text and chat messages sent or received by this individual that undermine his after-the-fact finger-pointing at Luhnow," the lawyers wrote.

They claimed Koch-Weser texted his colleagues "don't tell Jeff."

Luhnow agreed to a contract on May 24, 2018, that called for more than \$31 million in guaranteed compensation plus performance bonuses and profit interest. The contract called for disputes to go to an arbitration with Manfred or his designee, but Luhnow asked that to be set aside because of Manfred's involvement.

They said Luhnow's contract allowed termination only for material violation of club policies, dishonesty or fraud, criminal acts involving moral turpitude or failure or refusal to follow material lawful instructions relating to team duties. They said the Astros in the termination cited Manfred's letters to Luhnow on Jan. 2 and 13 claiming he violated major league rules, his contract and lawful instructions relating to his duties.



game. He is the first Rookie of the Year for Milwaukee since Ryan Braun in 2007.

"I don't really think that saves are the end-all be-all," Williams said on a conference call during a vacation in Jamaica. "If I come up in the seventh inning and I go through one through five, I think that that can be pretty valuable as well."

The 25-year-old Lewis was one of baseball's breakout stars during the pandemic-shortened season, batting .262 with 11 homers and 28 RBIs in 58 games. He led big league rookies with 37 runs, 90 total bases and a .364 on-base percentage.

Lewis also made a couple of memorable plays in center, robbing Oakland's Ramón Laureano of a grand slam on Sept. 14. He is the first player to win the award for Seattle since Ichiro Suzuki in 2001.

San Diego Padres second baseman Jake Cronenworth

and Philadelphia Phillies infielder Alec Bohm tied for second in NL balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Chicago White Sox center fielder Luis Robert finished second in the AL race, followed by Houston Astros right-hander Cristian Javier.

Lewis and Robert had similar seasons, with fast starts followed by slow finishes. Lewis batted just .147 in September, and Robert hit .136 with 32 strikeouts in 23 games in the final month.

Lewis was selected by Seattle with the No. 11 overall pick in the 2016 amateur draft out of Mercer University. He broke into the majors last year, appearing in 18 September games with the Mariners.

The Georgia native is the beginning of what could be a formidable young outfield in Seattle. Jarred Kelenic, who was acquired in a trade with the New York Mets, and Julio

Rodriguez are ranked among baseball's top prospects.

"I think we got a great chance to build a really strong core of guys, and those are two guys that are super talented. Top of the scale when you're talking about talent," Lewis said. "I think we really do have a great chance to turn into one of those rebuilding teams that ends up having a great group of guys move up together and progress together."

Williams, a St. Louis native, was selected by Milwaukee in the second round of the 2013 draft. He had Tommy John surgery while he was in the minors and made his big league debut last year.

This season, Williams teamed with closer Josh Hader to form a shutdown tandem at the back end of the Brewers' bullpen. He allowed one earned run in 22 appearances—a home run by Pittsburgh's Colin Moran on July 27.

AP
In this Aug. 5, 2020 file photo, the Seattle Mariners' Kyle Lewis catches a fly ball from the Los Angeles Angels in a baseball game in Seattle.

Featuring a devastating changeup and a four-seam fastball that gets into the upper 90s, Williams was practically unhittable. The 26-year-old right-hander went 4-1 with a microscopic 0.33 ERA, striking out 53 in just 27 innings.

The last reliever to take home the honor in either league was Craig Kimbrel for Atlanta in 2011.

Williams missed Milwaukee's loss to the champion Dodgers in the first round of the playoffs because of shoulder soreness.

"I'm doing a little bit of rehab still, but it's feeling good," Williams said.

The Managers of the Year will be announced by the BBWAA on Tuesday night, followed by the Cy Young Awards on Wednesday and the MVPs on Thursday.

Arozarena gets Babe Ruth award

Tampa Bay outfielder Randy Arozarena won the Babe Ruth award as postseason MVP in voting by the New York chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Arozarena hit .377 with 10 homers, 14 RBIs and a 1.273 OPS in 20 postseason games and received 64.3% of the votes Friday in balloting announced Monday to edge Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw and short-stop Corey Seager.

Seager was selected MVP of the NL Championship Series and the World Series win over the Rays.

Yankees second baseman DJ LeMahieu was voted the Sid Mercer/Dick Young New York Player of the Year after batting a major league-leading .364 in the pandemic-shortened season, and New York Mets outfielder/first baseman Dominic Smith earned the Joe DiMaggio Toast of the Town Award after hitting .316 with 10 homers and 42 RBIs.

Yankees reliever Zack Britton received the Ben Epstein/Dan Castellano Good Guy Award, and Yankees designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton the Joan Payson/Shannon Forde Award for Community Service.

Mike Piazza and Steve Karsay will get the Willie, Mickey & the Duke Award to mark the 20th anniversary of Piazza's home run for the Mets off the Atlanta reliever at Shea Stadium in the first game following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Karsay grew up

Pats storm back to beat Jets, end 4-game skid



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.
(AP) — Cam

Newton and the New England Patriots appeared headed to a fifth straight loss—this one against the winless New York Jets, of all teams.

Then came the fourth quarter, and potential embarrassment turned into big-time relief.

Nick Folk kicked a 51-yard field goal as time expired to win it 30-27 on Monday night after Newton rallied the Patriots from a 10-point deficit to avoid the franchise's first five-game skid since 1995.

"It shows the character of this team," said Rex Burkhead, who had a 1-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. "Just battling, fighting. It shows the strength we have. We're not going to quit. We're not going to lay down."

Newton had two touchdown runs, with the second tying it at 27 with 1:57 remaining. He also brushed off his struggles of the past few weeks, including a fumble against Buffalo last week that sealed a loss.

"I'm getting tired of sucking," said Newton, who was 27 of 35 for 274 yards passing. "It's simple. As a competitor, you know what your standard is. Taking pride in your work, that's what it comes down to."

After the Jets (0-9) went three-and-out for the first time all night, the Patriots (3-5) got the ball back with 47 seconds left and went to work.

Newton had a 5-yard run on third-and-1 from the New England 42 and then spiked the ball with 8 seconds remaining. He followed with a 20-yard pass to Jakobi Meyers to put Folk—who made several big kicks for the Jets from 2010-16—in position for the



winning field goal.

"I had a lot of good memories here at MetLife (Stadium)," said Folk, who had been dealing with a back injury. "I just added one to the other sideline tonight."

Meanwhile, the Jets dropped to 0-9 for the first time in franchise history, and this was one that was particularly agonizing.

"It's a tough pill to swallow," said wide receiver Jamison Crowder, whose 20-yard TD catch shortly before halftime gave the Jets a 20-10

lead. "That was a tough loss right there. That was a game we should've won."

After Folk's 29-yarder with 6:04 left cut the Patriots' deficit to 27-20, quarterback Joe Flacco—having a solid night until that point while starting for an injured Sam Darnold—tried to put the game away.

Instead, he swayed the momentum in New England's favor.

Flacco's deep pass down the middle for Denzel Mims was picked off by J.C. Jackson. That set up Newton's tying TD—and deflated the Jets,

who couldn't recover.

"I don't think I would've made a different decision in the moment," Flacco said. "But, obviously, I'd like to have that one back."

Flacco was 18 of 25 for 262 yards and three touchdown passes—two to Breshad Perriman and one to Crowder—but had the game-changing interception.

With the Patriots down by 10, Newton marched them down the field to open the second half, capping a 14-play drive with Burkhead's 1-yard plunge into the end zone to

make it 20-17.

But the Jets answered right back, with Flacco finding a wide-open Perriman in the end zone for a 15-yard touchdown and a 27-17 lead with 30 seconds left in the third quarter.

A miscue by the Jets on special teams kept the Patriots' next drive alive.

After Newton stumbled on third-and-1 and was stopped for a 4-yard loss, New England appeared to have to settle for a 32-yard field goal. But the Jets were called for 12 men on the field—resulting in a first down

AP
New England Patriots' Gunner Olszewski (80) tries to avoid being tackled during the first half of an NFL game against the New York Jets, Monday, Nov. 9, 2020, in East Rutherford, N.J.

for the Patriots. The defense made up for the mistake, getting a red-zone stop—with an assist from a holding penalty on New England right tackle Mike Onwenu—and holding the Patriots to a field goal to make it 27-20 with 6:04 left.

But New England got the ball right back when Flacco was picked off by Jackson, who has interceptions in four straight games.

With the Jets looking for a stop on third down, Bless Austin was called for defensive holding, keeping the drive alive.

Damien Harris ran for 21 yards to get New England into Jets territory. He followed with a 9-yard gain, but it was called back because of an offensive holding penalty on Meyers. Harris also took a big hit on the run and was down for several minutes before walking gingerly to the sideline.

Three plays later, Newton completed a 19-yard pass to Meyers and then ran for 3 yards on fourth-and-1. Newton hit Damiere Byrd for 31 yards to put the ball at the 3.

With a taxed Jets defense tiring, Newton ran for 2 yards on first down, was stopped for no gain and then pushed his way into the end zone for his second rushing TD of the game to tie it with 1:57 remaining.

"It was a good win," coach Bill Belichick said. "I thought we made the plays we needed to make at the end of the game. Certainly some things we can do better. But we played good complementary football at the end of the game."

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Sergio Garcia pulled out of the Masters on Monday after informing Augusta National he tested positive for the coronavirus, making him the second player to withdraw following a positive test.

Garcia won his only major at the Masters three years ago in his 19th appearance, the most of any player before winning a green jacket.

"After 21 years of not missing a major championship, I will sadly miss the Masters this week," he tweeted. "The important thing is that my family and I are feeling good. We'll come back stronger and give the green jacket a go next April."

Joaquin Niemann of Chile announced last week that he tested positive and withdrew.

The field was down to 92 players, with two other former

Garcia withdraws from Masters after positive COVID-19 test

champions not playing. Angel Cabrera, who won in 2009, had surgery on his left arm and is not expected to return until January. Trevor Immelman, the 2008 winner, had his name listed on the board as not playing. He is working the CBS broadcast this week. Immelman did not immediately respond to a text message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Garcia played last week in the Houston Open, which sold 2,000 tickets each day. It was the first domestic PGA Tour event that allowed limited spectators on the course. Garcia, who won the Sanderson Farms Championship last month for his first U.S. victory since his Masters win, missed the cut in Houston.

He said on Twitter he was

driving back to his home in Austin, Texas, on Saturday night when he started feeling a sore throat and a cough.

"The symptoms stayed with me on Sunday morning so I decided to get tested for COVID-19 and so did my wife Angela. Thankfully she tested negative, but I didn't," he wrote.

He brings to 15 the number of PGA Tour players who have tested positive since golf returned in June from the COVID-19 pandemic-caused shutdown. That includes Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player, who sat out two events last month.

Johnson said last week there was no change to his routine when he flew to Las Vegas

and he was surprised to get a positive test. Adam Scott tested positive a week later in California and also had to withdraw.

Under CDC guidelines, once they have recovered and are through the 10 days of isolation, they are not tested for three months.

First black player honored

In a year marked by racial injustice, Augusta National announced Monday it would honor Lee Elder with two scholarships in his name at Paine College and an honorary tee shot next year for the first Black player in the Masters.

"It's mind-boggling every time I think about it," said

Elder, who made his barrier-breaking debut in 1975.

It was about time, according to Masters Chairman Fred Ridley, who said racial injustice and equality have been at the forefront of the nation this year.

"Our question was not so much what we can say but what we can do," Ridley said.

The Masters for some two decades has provided scholarship money for Paine College, a private, historically Black college in Augusta. The Lee Elder Scholarship will be endowed for one man and one woman on the golf team. The fact Paine doesn't have a women's golf program was not a problem. Ridley said Augusta National would pay to start one.

Elder already was looking ahead to next April when he

returns to the first tee, this time with a shot that doesn't count toward a score but is more meaningful to him than when he first played the tournament.

"That is one thing that's going to be significant to me, because 1975 was just an ordinary shot playing a golf tournament, even though it was the Masters," Elder said. "It's not as significant as this shot will be come April 8, 2021. Because my heart and soul will be into this shot."

The criteria have changed over the years at the Masters, and when the club began issuing invitations to PGA Tour winners, Elder qualified by winning the 1974 Pensacola Open. That made him eligible for the 1975 Masters. He missed the cut, though Ridley said the moment was historic because of the message it sent that "I belong."



NBA free agency to start on Nov. 20



NEW YORK (AP)— This NBA offseason is going to move fast.

The league and the NBA Players Association agreed on new provisions to the current collective bargaining agreement and set the official start of free agency on Monday night.

ROTA

From Page 20

Yeon Kang, YeLyn Kim, Sofia Kordiuikova, Ivan Li, Charles McDonald III, Yun Woo Nam, Jesus Sablan, Hyeon Bo Shim, Edward Villagomez, Li Tai Wang, Kexuan Yu, and Hao-tian Zhang.

SIS 10th Graders also received its certificate of completion (Saipan stop at the 376-mile mark) last Monday and was joined by two other teams—Freshmen '24 and English Academy. The Freshmen '24 and English Academy have three more stops—SIS (388-mile mark), Tinian (397), and Aguijan (410)—to catch up with SIS 10th Graders at the finish line. The Freshmen '24 has 23 runners on its roster, while English Academy has listed nine members and both squads are entered in the school category of Run The Marianas.

In the non-school division, Mile High Club is the pace-setter. Jeffrey Bacani, Mary Deala, Jonathan Sugutan, Terence Leung, Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Anastasiia Dela Cruz, Jay Muna, Tricia Cortez, and Elena Gersonde have combined for 387 miles as of

Teams will play a 72-game schedule, which will be revealed in the coming weeks. The league said a new system will be used to ensure that the split of basketball-related income continues, one of the many details that had to be collectively bargained with the union because the current

last Monday.

In the individual race, New York City Marathon finisher Rommel Buenaflor is ahead with his 136 miles, while Dela Cruz and Marilou Carlos are tied for second with similar 126 miles.

After nearly one month since its launch, Run The Marianas logged over 5,000 miles. The virtual run kicked off last Oct. 15 with runners starting the race from Farallon De Pajaros to reach Rota via 13 island chain stops—Maug Landing (42-mile mark), followed by Asuncion (67), Agrihan (130), Pagan (175), Alamagan (214), Guguan (234), Sarigan (276), Anatahan (300), Farallon De Midinilla (325), Saipan (376), SIS (388), Tinian (397), Aguijan (410). Participants have until Feb. 14 next year to complete the 460-mile journey and they can do it by running on any locations or even on a treadmill.

Certificates with description of the island chain they have reached are awarded to teams/individual runners after every completed stops. Each member of the squad will receive medals upon completion of the race on or before Feb. 14.



TRAIL RUN WINNER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's eighth-grade student Kaithlyn Chavez won first place in the women's division of the TRAC North Trail Run held last Saturday in Marpi. She defeated more than 30 competitors in her group after completing the 11.5-kilometer race in one hour, two minutes, and 12 seconds.

agreement between the sides had a great deal of language that needed reworking because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Free agency ahead of the 2020-21 season will begin at 6pm ET on Nov. 20, just two days after the NBA draft. Signings can then start on Nov. 22 at 12:01pm ET—an extraordinarily fast window for the NBA, which typically has about a week spanning the start of talks and the beginning of signings. But with training camps this year beginning Dec. 1, both sides evidently

feel there isn't a need to draw out the process any longer than necessary.

Many rosters could be considerably reshaped by then, with trades likely to be permissible again in the coming days—the exact details there still being worked out—and the NBA draft set to take place Nov. 18. Player and team options likely will be settled around that same time. Free agency starts two days after the draft, with around 100 players set for unrestricted status.

The salary cap and tax level will remain unchanged.

The cap was \$109.14 million this past season, with the tax level at \$132,627,000. The real numbers will be affected by the shortened schedule—last year's numbers were based on the standard 82-game season, a threshold that won't be reached this year.

The salary cap for 2021-22 is guaranteed to rise somewhere between 3% and 10%, the league said, which means it'll be somewhere between \$112.4 million and \$120.1 million.

The league's board of governors will vote to finalize the deal, which is a formal-

ity. NBA general managers also have a meeting Tuesday afternoon to discuss matters.

Meyers Leonard, a free-agent-to-be who spent this past season with the Miami Heat and served as the team's player rep to the NBPA, said he had some concerns about getting all the logistical matters completed in time for a Dec. 22 opening night. He resumed his offseason workouts Monday after he and his wife took a 4,000-mile tour-bus trip arranged by Coors Light from Miami to Los Angeles with many stops along the way.

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our local referees struggled with during our last season," Ito said, adding that he and Zapanta had a couple of meetings with Ishiyama before last weekend's event to prepare for the course.

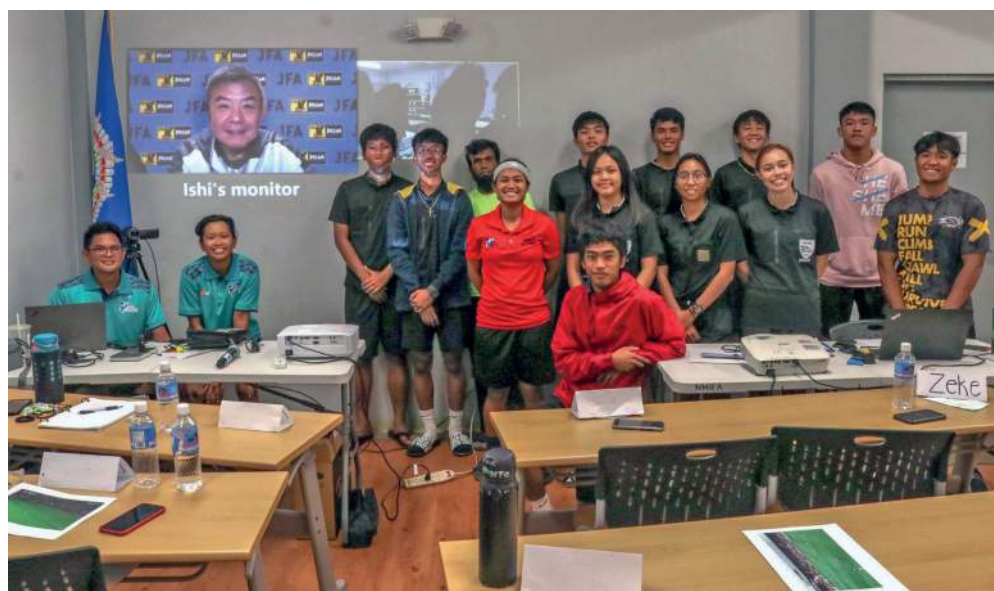
"The completion of this course is as significant as our coaching courses because NMI-FA aims not only to improve and develop players and coaches, but also develop our referees and this all ties up to further developing the sport of soccer in our islands. We are very grateful for EAFF's support during this pandemic and for giving us an opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the game," Ito said.

Laxa said the course is very timely, as it's been awhile since they officiated games because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This time seems to be the best time since it's offseason and many have forgotten about the rules. This course served as a refresher and another learning opportunity for us," Laxa said.

The 14 referees completed the practical part of the course through the help of the members of the CNMI national teams. The Commonwealth bet played matches and Laxa and company officiated the games and applied what they have learned from both the two-day classes.

Laxa, who is one of the ref-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Asian Football Confederation and East Asian Football Federation instructor Noboru Ishiyama (on the screen) of the Japan Football Association joins the referee course participants and facilitators for a group photo at the conclusion of their classroom session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

erees assigned in the CNMI's premier men's competition—the M-League—added that attending the course conducted by Ishiyama is special to him.

"He was actually my instructor when I was a referee at the EAFF U15 Boys Tournament 2018 in China. It's great to have a professional referee instruct many of our young and veteran referees. We were able to learn a lot from him," Laxa said.

"It's important that we keep learning the rules of the game and develop our skills as we see the continued growth of the sport here."




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ezekiel Canape officiates one of the training games played by members of the CNMI national teams.



Referee course facilitator Ruselle Zapanta gives pointers to referees.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO




Williams,
Lewis take
ROY honors

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Pats storm
back to beat
Jets, end
4-game skid

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14 complete referee course



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Referees and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staff and officials pose for a photo with the players of the CNMI national teams after completing a referee course last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association’s referee program got a needed boost, as 14 completed a referee course last weekend at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Jeremish Diaz, Irish Pagarao, Sebastien Manabat, Amzad Khan, Lilian Podziewski, Merrick Toves, Akira Kadokura, Rinto Takahashi, Ezekiel Canape, Marinel Falalimpa, Taka Borja, Davy Laxa, Aloyzeus Angeles, and Nicole Lumbad

attended the Nov. 7 and 8 referee course conducted by Asian Football Confederation and East Asian Football Federation instructor Noboru Ishiyama of the Japan Football Association.



Ishiyama held theoretical sessions online, while NMI-FA coach and referee executive director Angie Ito and NMIFA Ruselle Zapanta conducted the practical part of the course. According to Ito, the two-

day course put emphasis on offsidess, handball, anticipation and positioning, and free kick management. “These situations were what the referee committee noticed

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Marinel Falalimpa gestures as she officiates a game during the practical session of the referee course.

Rota waving at SIS 10th Graders

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Run The Marianas is expected to see its first finisher later this week with Saipan International School 10th Graders reaching past the

400-mile mark of the virtual race.

SIS 10th Graders is ahead of the 460-mile run that has its finish line on Rota, as the team has logged 414 miles as of last Monday. Tiana



Cabrera, the winner of the girls U18 division in the opening leg of the 2020-2021 Public School System/ Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series last week-

end, leads SIS 10th Graders. Other members of the front-running squad are Francise Asedillo, LinXi Cai, Samuel Culp, Hazel Guerrero, Zihe Guo, Huiwon Jeong, Dong

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SIS 10th Graders, Freshmen '24, and English Academy runners show their certificates of completion after reaching Saipan—one of the island stops in the Run The Marianas.